

PUA HQ allegedly threatened



BOONIE BABIES FOSTER Helping stray dogs find 'fur-ever' home

Boonie Babies Foster founder Aria Keilbach plays with two dogs under her care. "I had heard the rumors that boonie dogs are unpredictable and aggressive and couldn't possibly make good pets but, through my experiences, I learned that that was far from the truth," she said.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

By BEA CABRERA
beacabrerasaipan@gmail.com
CORRESPONDENT

The large number of abandoned, malnourished, and sick dogs roaming the streets of Saipan has

led to the birth of Boonie Babies Foster—a group that seeks to find "fur-ever" homes for the island's stray dog population.

Founded by Northern Marianas College freshman Aria Keilbach,

Boonies Babies Foster provides shelter, food, comfort, and love for dogs before they are adopted. Keilbach's passion for animals brought her to care not only for her

See HELPING on Page 4

By KIMBERLY A. BAUTISTA
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REPORTER

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3 more COVID-19 deaths in Guam

By JUSTINE NAUTA
justine_nauta@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

Guam's Joint Information Center reported three more COVID-19-related deaths yesterday, bring the island territory's death toll to 109.

Guam's 109th COVID-19-related fatality occurred at the Guam Memorial Hospital at approximately 11:02am. The patient was a 65-year-old male with underlying conditions that were further compounded by COVID-19.

See 3 MORE on Page 4

DPW allows IPI to resume work, but...

FERDIE DE LA TORRE
ferdie_delatorre@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

The Department of Public Works has allowed Imperial Pacific International (CNMI) LLC to resume construction work at levels 3 to 13 of the Imperial Pacific Resort building in Garapan after IPI complied with DPW's Building Safety

See DPW on Page 4

According to an official statement from DPS spokes-

See PUA on Page 4

AT A GLANCE

As of 6pm, Nov. 25, 2020

GUAM	OLD	NEW	TOTAL
Positive	6,602	53	6,655
Recovered	4,846	106	4,952
Active	1,543	53	1,596
Deaths	106	3	109
Cumulative Number of Persons Tested	82,011		

SAIPAN	OLD	NEW	TOTAL
Positive	104	0	104
Traced via Travel Screening	78	0	78
Traced via Community Screening	26	0	26
Deaths	2	0	2

Cumulative Number of Persons Tested 22,633*

Days since last community transmission 99

*Total count includes the number of persons tested on Saipan, Tinian, and Rota. With guidance from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, CHCC has opted not to report active and recovered cases. The community-based testing has been temporarily suspended.

Source: Joint Information Center - Guam, Commonwealth Health Care Corp.

COMMUNITY VULNERABILITY

LEGEND:

- Red: Least safe
- Orange
- Yellow
- Blue
- Green: Safest

Source: Office of the Governor

New group of workers suing IPI for alleged failed promises. PAGE 3
'We Drank Our Tears' films to be screened at 10th GIFF. PAGE 6

INSIDE



LOCAL

The Rotary Club of Saipan delivered pre-packed meals to the Aging Center in Garapan.

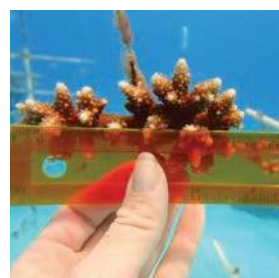
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BUSINESS

3M Saipan has found a niche in providing comfort to cars and other vehicles on Saipan.

PAGE 17



ENVIRONMENT

The Saipan Coral Nursery Project is working to rehabilitate and restore the CNMI's coral reefs.

PAGE 22



SCAN ME WITH A COMPATIBLE QR READER TO KEEP UPDATED ON ALL THE LATEST NEWS.

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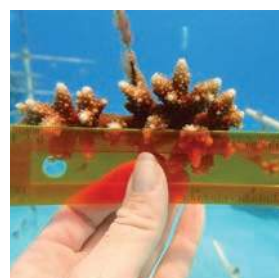
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CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Members of the Rotary Club of Saipan gather at the Office on Aging in Garapan to wish everyone a safe and memorable Thanksgiving.

Local

Rotary Club donates food to *man'amko*

The Rotary Club of Saipan delivered pre-packed meals to the Aging Center in Garapan yesterday as part of the celebration of Thanksgiving and the meals were later distributed to the homes of the *man'amko*.

According to Rotary Club of Saipan president Sonya Dancoe, "Our *man'amko* are special. They guide us in life with their wisdom and we want to wish all our *man'amko* a very special Thanksgiving. In times like these, we must stay positive, live in the moment, help one another and protect ourselves as we head into the holiday season."

Speaking on behalf of the

Rotary Club of Saipan, Dancoe thanked Aging Center director Walter A. Manglona and all his staff for their help and for taking good care of the elderly.

"I would like to give a huge thank you to the Rotary Club of Saipan for thinking of our elderly during this holiday season," said Manglona. "It is always nice to see community members keep our elders in their thoughts and prayers, especially during these challenging times. I am always hopeful that things will get better for everyone. Acts of kindness such as this truly help keep our spirits alive." (PR)

Torres invites nine Dems to work with his administration

Gov. Ralph DLG Torres said he is not worried about the victory of nine members of the NMI Democratic Party at the Nov. 3 general elections and is inviting the winning candidates from the opposition to work with his administration for the good of the CNMI.

Speaking at a radio news briefing last Friday, Torres, who is the titular head of the Republican Party, said his whole message at the election was to encourage everyone to come out and let their voices be heard through their vote. "So I will continue to do what

I need to do and make sure that I fulfill what I promised our community," he added.

Torres pointed out that elections happen every two years and that those who run and are given the opportunity to step up, they should do so and work with the administration as they are all voted in by the community.

The Commonwealth Election Commission's official tabulation results showed that nine out of 18 Democratic Party's candidates won, while 10 Republicans and five independents prevailed. (Ferdie de la Torre)

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New group of workers suing IPI for alleged failed promises

A group of workers have filed a complaint against Imperial Pacific International (CNMI) LLC for allegedly failing to provide them with what it promised them to come to Saipan, including paying them at least the minimum wage and providing them food according to their culture.

H-2B construction workers from Turkey—represented by Ozcan Genc, Hasan Gokce and Suleyman Kos—filed the complaint against IPI and IDS Development Management & Consultancy with the U.S. District Court for the NMI for allegedly forcing them to eat Chinese food, for allegedly not paying them the minimum wage and overtime, and for allegedly not paying them their salaries since Oct. 1. The workers are also accusing the defendants of retaliation for the workers' protest actions.

IDS Development Management & Consultancy is a company registered in Turkey, Saudi Arabia, and the United Arab Emirates. IDS recruits workers in Turkey and the Middle East and manages them in construction projects worldwide.

According to the complaint, the plaintiffs said that IPI promised the Turkish workers that it would hire a cook who could prepare the kind of food suited to them. They were also promised above-minimum wage, substantial overtime pay, and round-trip tickets.

However, the workers said the meals IPI gave them were Chinese food that were "practically inedible" for Turkish people so they ended up buying their own food and cooking for themselves. It was not immediately clear if their opposition to Chinese food was for other than the reason they cited in the complaint.

Aside from IPI allegedly breaking its promise to hire a cook that specializes in Turkish food, the Turkish workers ultimately had to borrow money from acquaintances for their travel costs and other expenses.

The group stated they also weren't paid the wages they were promised. Genc, a foreman and welding team leader, said IPI changed his title to carpenter and promised him a salary of \$21,840 a year. Gokce, a plumbing foreman, said he was given the title plumber and was also promised \$21,840 per annum. Kos, an electrician, was promoted to electrical foreman and was also promised the same salary.

The plaintiffs said their work hours were drastically cut and all overtime work was eliminated since June. Then delay in payrolls started on June 19.

IPI allegedly did not provide them pay stubs so they did not

see the deductions made on their salaries.

In addition, health insurance premiums were allegedly deducted from their paycheck,

but when they got sick and went to the Commonwealth Healthcare Corp. they were told that their health insurance coverage had been suspended

for nonpayment of premiums.

When the workers stopped work on Sept. 11 for three weeks in protest, they said IPI stopped providing them with

drinking water and internet services at their barracks and also stopped their access to company vehicles in October.

Genc, Gokce, and Kos filed

the complaint on behalf of themselves and other similarly situated H-2B workers who were recruited from Turkey. *(Kimberly A. Bautista)*





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KBB: \$18,614



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SALE PRICE
\$19,995
KBB: \$20,391



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\$9,995
KBB: \$9,318



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PUA

From Page 1

person Dre Pangelinan, police arrested Zajradhara at about 1:10pm and charged him with terroristic threatening. DPS later issued an all-clear at 3pm and released PUA and DOL employees who had been on lockdown since around 11am that same day.

A DPS statement said that it received a call at about 11:26am regarding a possible threat against the Department of Labor office on Capital Hill. Police dispatched to the scene met with a DOL employee who

stated that they were on a phone call with a PUA applicant, later identified as Zajradhara, who allegedly stated that he would go up and begin shooting if he had a gun.

Zajradhara, previously named Steven Carl Farmer, is known for filing labor complaints against CNMI companies. At one point, the CNMI House of Representatives declared him “persona non grata.”

Labor Secretary Vicky Benavente later said in a statement that it was truly disappointing for an individual to threaten innocent staff who are simply doing their jobs, at a time leading to the holiday weekend.

HELPING

From Page 1

own dogs but also for the ones who are unloved and are alone.

“I have always had a passion for animals and I spent my childhood back in the [United] States rescuing baby birds, volunteering at animal shelters, and spending any spare moment I have training my own dogs. When I moved to Saipan and saw the complete lack of respect for animal life and the overpopulation of stray and neglected dogs here, I was devastated,” she said. “One day, a male boonie dog appeared at our yard and decided that it was going to be his home. He had a collar but was extremely malnourished and dehydrated, so we gave him food, water, and a simple name, D-O-G or Diogi. The effort to not get attached was futile as Diogi was an extremely affectionate and playful dog that became more and more a part of our family as we started bringing him along on walks, beach days, and car rides.”

Sadly, Diogi passed away a few weeks later due to a dog disease called parvo, proof that previous owners never got the dog the necessary vaccines. “He filled the missing piece in my days, like only the comfort a loving dog can. ... That was when I realized that adoption was not the only way to help stray dogs on island so I started keeping dog food in my car so that I could stop and feed

any stray I see,” she said.

“Soon, we had taken in two foster dogs from Saipan Cares for Animals and Boonie Babies Foster began.

“I had heard the rumors that boonie dogs were unpredictable, aggressive dogs that couldn’t possibly make good pets but, through my experiences, I learned that that was far from the truth. Any unsocialized dog who is forced to face neglect and survive on their own has the potential to form aggressive tendencies, solely in self-defense or fear. However, there is nothing in boonie dogs’ genetics that makes them aggressive. It is all dependent on the experiences they’ve been through,” she added.

Since Diogi passed away in 2019, Kielbach has taken in 19 neglected, injured, and starving boonie dogs with the intention of rehabilitating, socializing, and loving them until they are ready to be adopted out to their “forever” homes. “The random feedings of stray dogs have grown into a scheduled route made up of about 10-15 dogs across the island that I feed regularly and who come running to my car when I pull up. I started posting about my foster dogs and strays and created a platform on which I educate others on the animal situation here and the process of rescuing,” she said.

“Providing care and necessities for the number of dogs and cats that rely on me, an unemployed 18-year-old college student, would be impossible without help. I am incredibly grateful

“It is because of this incident that CNMI DOL had to close down operations and resume on Friday under heightened security,” she said.

Benavente pointed out that frustrations about the PUA program are rampant across the entire United States and that the CNMI is no different from concerns raised in Guam, Hawaii, and the other states and territories. “We have expressed our frustrations as a territorial government from the eligibility requirements, [ranging from policies] that prevent CWs from receiving benefits (which we have sought reconsideration) to the strict adjudi-

for the support of everyone who follows my social media platforms, my hundreds of followers on Instagram and 300,000 followers on TikTok. I do not only receive donations to cover food expenses but also medical costs and make donations to the incredible nonprofit clinic here, Saipan Cares for Animals, who, without their help, none of my rescues would have survived,” she added.

One of Boonie Dogs Foster’s first rescue was a dog named Bella. “I had several foster dogs that I got from Saipan Cares for Animals but the first dog that I personally rescued had such an impact on me. I was driving home from school when I spotted a dog chained to a cement slab in the pouring rain and starving to death. She was so skinny and looked like a skeleton. I pulled over with the intention of simply giving her some food and comfort but, as I approached her, I was shocked to see a 4-week-old puppy near her that was barely old enough to walk. I scooped up the listless puppy and, after some searching, found two other puppies, all of which were covered in ticks, sopping wet, and barely alive. I knew that I needed to get those dogs out of that situation or they would not survive much longer, so after a conversation with the owners, they agreed to let me take Bella the mother dog and her puppies.”

A longer version of this story is available at www.saipantribune.com

cation process and Web portal that have been out of the control of our local DOL,” she said.

However, Benavente said the CNMI government has fully prioritized the proper administration of the PUA program in line with federal requirements and standards. “The work has not stopped and, while PUA continues to be a complex program to administer across all states and territories, the CNMI DOL continues to manage this program in line with federal statutes and U.S. DOL regulations. There is a strict process outlined by our federal partners in order to ensure accountability of funds and to prevent fraud. We want to see all eligible PUA claims receive their benefits. That has been the goal from the start and we will continue to work to get all eligible CNMI claimants their benefits,” she said.

Benavente said that she is just as frustrated with the strict program but it is federal money that requires strict compliance. “We ask all eligible claimants to remain patient as over 100 employees at the CNMI PUA program are reviewing claims and expediting payments from Monday to Saturday until 7:30pm,” she said.

Benavente said over 100 employ-

ees from across government, including un-furloughed employees, have been assigned to assist in adjudication and troubleshooting errors in order to expedite payments so DOL continues to ask for patience.

“Along with the overall COVID-19 response, the entire administration has prioritized PUA payments to eligible claimants by mobilizing personnel and resources to fit the demands of this very complex program,” she said.

Benavente assures the community that while many states and territories are in worse conditions and some are still months behind in payment with their PUA programs, CNMI DOL is slated to have 81% of all claims adjudicated by the end of the month.

“U.S. DOL has praised the CNMI Department of Labor as a model program in the country because of its compliance with federal requirements and is set to receive additional funding for unemployment relief in order to further expedite payments. As a government, this administration is doing everything it can to get payments out to eligible claimants in the most expeditious way possible within the requirements of the program,” she said.

DPW

From Page 1

Code Division’s requirement.

Speaking at the Commonwealth Casino Commission’s monthly meeting at the Springs Plaza last Tuesday, DPW BSCD representative/inspector Gani Salazar stated, though, that IPI cannot work on level 14 of the tower hotel unless IPI submits shop drawings and its revised plan for that floor.

Salazar said they expect to lift the stop-work order by the end of business day that day, Tuesday.

IPI received the stop-work order from DPW last Oct. 27.

In that order, DPW suspended all construction work from Level 3 to Sky Level 14 of the tower hotel until shop drawings and revised plans are submitted to and approved by DPW’s Building Safety officer. DPW also suspended all welding work until special inspectors are on board and approved by the Building Safety officers.

At Tuesday’s CCC meeting, commissioner Mariano Taitano questioned why DPW would lift the stop-work order on that day when IPI has yet to submit some construction documents for approval. Salazar explained that there are two violations and that IPI has already complied with one.

In the first violation, BSCD required IPI to submit shop drawings and revised plans for approval for tower hotel’s levels 3 to 14.

In the second violation, IPI allegedly failed to select and obtain approval for an approved agency (special inspector).

BSCD required IPI to submit the name of the company selected as its special inspector, and that the company must have a certified welder, electrical engineer, architect, and mechanical engineer on staff. BSCD said the special inspector company is subject to approval by the Building

Safety officer.

IPI also allegedly failed to submit approved special inspector reports and tests from June 2019 to present.

BSCD said IPI must submit a special inspection report for September and October 2020.

Salazar told the commission that with respect to the second violation, IPI has complied by having Guam-based DR Safety as the main contractor and is teaming up with another company.

“Those are engineers that will oversee the construction operation and they will certify the reports done by the workers,” Salazar said.

He said if there are no special inspectors on board, IPI cannot proceed. For example, Salazar said, if DR Safety informs them that they are no longer connected with IPI tomorrow for non-payment of services, then DPW would need to issue a stop-work order again.

He said they are doing periodic inspections to make sure DR Safety is working properly because they are basing their reports on what DR Safety will submit. “Public Works must be aware that everything that’s being done out there is in compliance with the Building Safety Code,” he pointed out.

Salazar said that in their meeting on Monday, DR Safety’s partner company assured that they are going to do their best. He disclosed that IPI had no special inspectors for the longest time, yet it continued working. “We gave them so much time to provide special inspectors, but they failed. That’s why we issued the stop-work order,” he said. But this time, Salazar said, these engineers of record do understand their responsibility—that the safety and compliance with the Building Code is very important.

A longer version of this story is available at www.saipantribune.com

3 MORE

From Page 1

He was admitted to GMH on Oct. 22, 2020, and was a known positive case.

In a message quoted in the JIC advisory, Guam Gov. Lou Leon Guerrero said, “There is no pain like losing a loved one. To his family and friends, please accept our condolences and sympathies.”

Earlier, the JIC reported two more COVID-19-related deaths, while 62 prisoners in Guam have tested positive.

Guam’s 108th COVID-19-related fatality happened at the U.S. Naval Hospital at approximately 6:50pm last Tuesday. The patient was a 48-year-old male with underlying conditions that were further compounded by COVID-19. According to JIC, he tested positive last Nov. 21, and was admitted to USNH last Nov. 24.

Guam’s 107th COVID-19-related fatality occurred at the GMH at approximately 12:15am, last Tuesday.

According to JIC, the patient was a 55-year-old female with underlying conditions that were further compounded by COVID-19. She was admitted to GMH on Nov. 8, and tested positive upon admission.

“As we lose more and more of our neighbors to COVID-19, we cannot become numb to the news,” said Leon-Guerrero. “These people are more than numbers—they were friends, co-workers, siblings, parents, children. They are more than the illness they succumbed to. So it is our duty, our responsibility to keep each other safe. Our vigilance is the only vaccine we have.”

Leon Guerrero urged everyone to be on the alert, stand firm, and be strong. The only light at the end of their tunnel, she said, is the constant vigilance that they have.

JIC earlier reported that Guam’s Department of Corrections confirmed that there are an additional 62 positive cases of COVID-19 among its prisoner population. As of Nov. 25, there have been a total of 164

confirmed cases among the prisoner population and that 24 out of the 164 have “recovered.”

“DOC is working with Guam Homeland Security/Office of Civil Defense and the Department of Public Works to erect three military-grade tents to provide additional isolation facilities,” said JIC. DOC continues to work with the U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention and the Department of Public Health and Social Services to help stop the spread of the virus in both facilities. Lockdown status remains in effect.

Meanwhile, according to a Pacific News Center report, Guam Superior Court Judge Elyze Iriarte has ordered that the DPHSS cannot quarantine passengers who come from the CNMI.

The PNC story quotes Iriarte as saying that, as long as there is no COVID-19 community spread in the CNMI, DPHSS cannot quarantine passengers coming from the CNMI but can continue to require that they undergo a 14-day home quarantine.

Thanksgiving messages

By JUSTINE NAUTA
justine_nauta@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

As the CNMI heads into the holiday season starting with today's celebration of Thanksgiving, Warren Villagomez, who heads the COVID-19 Task Force, emphasizes that it's still important to practice the three W's and all the other precautionary safety measures in order to stop the spread of the coronavirus.

Speaking at a radio news briefing yesterday, Villagomez urged the public to continue to follow the governor's safety directives and adhere to the three W's, which is to wear your mask, wait at a distance, and wash your hands.

"When you're out at a gathering, make sure that you help out your family members and remind them to be aware and be vigilant to wear their mask and adhere to the three W's," he said.

Villagomez assured that everyone is working hard to keep the community safe and "we thank our first responders at all levels, most especially the folks at the Commonwealth Healthcare Corp., the nurses, and the doctors that are continuing all the efforts for the task force as well as this community."

Gov. Ralph DLG Torres also reminded the community to remain vigilant and not put one's guard down, even with a family gathering.

"Today, tomorrow, this weekend, I know that it's time for Thanksgiving, time for family, I just ask that, as we gather as a family, that we try to continue to wear masks as much as we can, use proper sanitation as much as you can, and respect each other," said Torres. "At the same time, it is time for Thanksgiving, and I also ask that each one of us take that time and appreciate what we have here on our islands."

Lt. Gov. Arnold I. Palacios is most grateful that the islands continue to be safe. "Containing the virus is something that we should all be proud

of. We have that to be thankful for," he said, adding that he is thankful to the CNMI

community for its understanding and he's looking forward to a "better Commonwealth" in the next two or three years.

"My family and I are grateful for the opportunity to work for the people. The governor and I, and his family wish to extend a Happy Thanksgiving to every member of our community, despite the many challenges that we continue to face," said Palacios.

Saipan Mayor David M. Apatang also has his Thanksgiving message: "This special day, we embrace our diverse heritage and unite as one to give thanks to all those around us. Since the novel coronavirus, we

faced many great uncertainties, but our community has stayed united with strong a commitment to get through these difficult times. As a CNMI of caring and concerned people, we always share one common goal to build

a peaceful community we call home. In the spirit of Thanksgiving, we must remember to make that extra effort to help those in need and continue to encourage each other to remain positive and to hold our heads up high. The strength of our island comes from you, the people, and we are thankful for having a community of active and supportive citizens.

"To our front-line workers, first responders, safety personnel, employees from all businesses, we are thankful for your remarkable services in keeping our island a safe and healthy place to live. To our veterans, those still with us and those who have gone before us, and those who are still serving in armed forces around the world, thank you for your selfless services in protecting our people and preserving our freedom and peace. We pray for you this Thanksgiving Day for all the sacrifices you have made. May the Lord continue to bless us all and we wish everyone a safe Thanksgiving Day!"



Torres



Palacios



Apatang



Villagomez

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Today, we remember God's unfailing faithfulness and protection throughout this pandemic. We give thanks for keeping CNMI safe. May you and your family enjoy this celebration.

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The cast and crew of the "We Drank Our Tears" gather for a group photo at one of the film shoots for the production. **D&R VISUALS**

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'We Drank Our Tears' films to be screened at 10th GIFF

Mount Carmel School announced that all current films in its award-winning "We Drank Our Tears" series will be screened this Thanksgiving weekend at the 10th Annual Guam International Film Festival, or GIFF.

In addition to the screenings, the films' writer and producer, school president Dr. Galvin Deleon Guerrero, will participate in an online panel with other indigenous filmmakers on Saturday at noon. This will be the first virtual version of GIFF, which will stream live online for free worldwide. It will also be televised simultaneously on KGTF Channel 12, PBS Guam.

"We were honored to be invited to participate again in GIFF by showcasing these important stories about our islands, our people, and our history," said Deleon Guerrero.

Many of the films were previously nominated for GIFF's Best Made in the Marianas, with one bagging the Best of Festival in 2018. "We appreciate that GIFF continues to provide a platform for indigenous filmmakers to tell our stories," Deleon Guerrero said.

To celebrate the 10th anniversary of this groundbreaking festival, the emphasis of this year's GIFF is centered around indigenous Pacific Islander films with a special retrospective showcase featuring award-winning and nominated local films that have screened as part of GIFF within the past decade.

"I'm happy to commemorate the festival's 10th anniversary by honoring our own stories," said GIFF program director Kel Muña. "With so many unsettling moments taking place this year, we wanted this GIFF to be a special 'thank you' note;

an expression of humble thanks and gratitude to our local GIFF audiences, participating filmmakers, and community, and business leaders that have supported the festival and its mission by way of community, education, and entertainment throughout the past ten years."

Regarding the "We Drank Our Tears" films, GIFF executive director Don Muña noted, "The maturity in the visual perspective and the historical knowledge that the students from Mount Carmel School have shared through their work is proof we can preserve, restore, and perpetuate our culture by bridging the generational gap through visual communications. ...The film series is sheer genius and what I would define as a digital cultural immersion."

The films to be screened tell the stories of Carmen Acosta, Sr. Antoineta Ada, Rosa Agulto, Francisco Babauta, Benjamin Abadilla, and Rafael Mafnas. All the films in the series are adapted from *We Drank Our Tears*, a 2004 oral history of the civilian experience of World War II battles on Saipan and Tinian, published by Pacific STAR Young Writers Foundation. In 1944, some of the final battles of World War II were waged on the Pacific islands of Saipan and Tinian. A total of 933 indigenous Chamorro and Refaluwasch civilians did not survive the battles. All films will air starting at 3pm on Saturday, Nov. 28, on PBS Guam.

For more information regarding GIFF, including film showtimes, visit www.guamfilmfestival.org. For more information about Mount Carmel School, visit www.mountcarmelsaipan.com. (PR)



The cast and crew of the "We Drank Our Tears" gather for a group photo at one of the film shoots for the production. **D&R VISUALS**

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HAPPY Thanksgiving

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Peter is appointed as NMI's 1st female Public Auditor



Gov. Ralph DLG Torres, right, appoints Kina Borja Peter, CPA, to serve as Public Auditor for the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands.

OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR

Gov. Ralph DLG Torres appointed Kina Borja Peter, CPA, yesterday to serve as Public Auditor for the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands. If confirmed, she will be the first female to serve as Public Auditor.

Peter replaces outgoing Public Auditor Michael Pai, CPA, who was appointed by then-governor Benigno R. Fitial and served for the last 12 years. Peter's appointment requires the advice and consent of both the House of Representatives and

the Senate. She immediately serves as acting Public Auditor until confirmed by both chambers of the Legislature.

"The Public Auditor and the Office of the Public Auditor play a significant role in ensuring an efficient and ethical government for the people of the Commonwealth. It is a position of great responsibility demanding a highly qualified individual, and Ms. Peter is exceedingly qualified for the position. She is a certified public accountant and has over

20 years of accounting experience with Deloitte, a Big Four audit firm in the CNMI and Seattle, Washington and, most recently, for Boeing Company, a multi-billion-dollar Fortune 500 company and one of the largest aerospace manufacturers in the world. We look forward to seeing her back home to fulfill her constitutional duties professionally," Torres said.

A former senior finance leader, senior accountant, senior manager, and accounting manager for Boeing, Peter supervised project development

activities, led in the building of viable financial business plans, initiated financial accounting and reporting processes, led the Hong Kong Regional Finance Center international team across multiple Asia-Pacific locations, and managed over 20 Boeing subsidiaries, and led multiple teams in Washington, Hong Kong, and San Diego.

"I am grateful to be nominated and appointed acting Public Auditor for the CNMI government. It is a tremendous privilege, and I humbly thank Gov. Torres and Lt.

Gov. Palacios for giving me the opportunity to serve our people and our community," said Peter. "I am humbled to be given the opportunity to be a part of the work to help our Commonwealth recover from this worldwide pandemic. The audit of public funds and government agencies will be a challenge, but one I am ready to undertake so I can be a part of our solution."

In addition to her time at Boeing, she served as senior auditor for Deloitte in Seattle, Washington and on Saipan, where she led and supervised

audit engagement teams and helped audit staff develop skills required for successful completion of audit assignments. She managed various audit engagements for various public and private companies in the Seattle area and successfully executed audit engagements for government agencies, trust funds, non-profit organizations, and private companies across Micronesia.

Peter graduated from the University of Portland in Oregon with a bachelor's degree in business administration with a concentration in accounting and is a Washington licensed Certified Public Accountant. (PR)

NMC deadline reminder

Financial aid is available for new and ongoing students who are pursuing their college studies through Northern Marianas College. The spring semester for NMC begins with the first day of classes on Jan. 19, 2021. Students are encouraged to register before the semester begins.

The available financial aid sources for the upcoming spring semester are:

Saipan Higher Education Financial Assistance (SHEFA)

Application Deadline: Dec. 1, 2020

Supporting Documents Deadline: Mar. 1, 2021

Email: saipanshefa@gmail.com | Phone: (670) 235-5995

Website: saipanshefa.net

CNMI Scholarship

Application Deadline: Dec. 15, 2020

Supporting Documents Deadline: Feb. 28, 2021

Email: awards@cnmischolarship.net | Phone: (670) 664-4750

Website: cnmischolarship.net

Pell Grant (Free Application for Federal Student Aid or FAFSA)

Students who have already filled out a 2020-2021 FAFSA do not need to apply again.

However, individuals who have not filled up the FAFSA should apply before the spring term begins. of austerity (applies for employees who are on reduced hours)

Those who need assistance in applying for financial aid can contact any of NMC's financial aid staff below:

Daisy Manglona-Propst
Director, Financial Aid
Tel: 237-6792
daisy.propst@marianas.edu

Verna Y. Deleon Guerrero
Financial Aid Counselor
Tel: 237-6793
verna.dlguerrero@marianas.edu

Colleen R. Villagomez
Financial Aid Specialist
Tel: 237-6794
colleen.villagomez@marianas.edu

Roy Luie A. Alegre
Financial Aid Specialist
Tel: 237-6791
roy.alegre@marianas.edu

For more information about registering for classes for the upcoming Spring 2021 semester or to apply for admission, contact the NMC Office of Admissions and Records at 237-6768/6769/6771 or visit www.marianas.edu. (PR)



Happy Thanksgiving
from our family to yours.

In this season of gratitude, we want to take a moment to thank our valued customers and partners for their support over the years, and to all the dedicated essential workers & volunteers that keep our community safe and functioning.

*"Give thanks to the LORD,
for He is good; His love endures forever."*

-1 Chronicles 16:34

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Opinion

Hafa Adai! Saipan Tribune

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MEMBER

AP The Associated Press

Pacific Islands News Association

EDITORIAL

Much to be grateful for

Thanksgiving will take on a much different look for most families this year because of the coronavirus pandemic.

Fewer people will be traveling home so as to avoid crowded airports and planes. Large family gatherings are discouraged as confirmed cases of COVID-19 climb to record levels daily. There won't be thousands of people gathered on the sidewalks of New York for the traditional Thanksgiving Day parade.

All in all, it has the feel of a depressing holiday celebration.

But rather than focusing on what we won't have this year, we should take the holiday literally and take a moment to give thanks and show gratitude for the simple things in our lives, the things that too often are overlooked but matter greatly.

The lessons learned in 2020 are not all bad. For one, it's taught us to be even more thankful for family and friends, and grateful for their good health and safety. We've learned the importance of staying in touch on a frequent basis and offering reassurance and love to those we can't be with at this time.

And we're fortunate to live in a time when technology can keep us connected, no matter the distance or circumstances. Zoom meetings and FaceTime sessions have become a common occurrence for many families.

We can also be grateful for the way so many have stepped up to help those facing difficult circumstances caused by the pandemic. The sight of dozens of volunteers offering assistance to pack boxes of food and load them into vehicles during those many drive-up distributions showed once again how caring our neighbors—even those we don't know—can be.

Mere words can't express our gratitude for health care workers across the country who, even in the face of the worst pandemic in a century, continue to provide care at great risk to their own health.

And despite the alarming surge in cases, we can take comfort in the dedication of scientists and researchers worldwide who have been working tirelessly on vaccines—which may be available within a few months—against the virus.

Taking a moment to reflect on the good things in our lives, always appropriate during the Thanksgiving season, is especially important this year. It's good for the soul to celebrate the blessings of life and to let others know how important they are to us.

On this Thanksgiving, look past the negative and consider the words of the late John F. Kennedy:

"As we express our gratitude, we must never forget that the highest appreciation is not to utter words, but to live by them."

(c) 2020 Pittsburgh Post-Gazette

RISE ABOVE TO GIVE THANKS



Biden's Homeland Security pick is no border softie

President-elect Joe Biden has pledged to end many of Trump's harsh new immigration policies. But his choice of Alejandro Mayorkas to lead his Department of Homeland Security indicates the new administration won't be embracing open borders, or even crafting especially welcoming policies toward migrants arriving over the Mexican border.

President Donald Trump's harsh treatment of immigrants was one of the most contentious issues of his first three years in office, and Biden will certainly expect Mayorkas to take a kinder approach toward asylum seekers, refugees and the undocumented.

Biden probably will reverse many of Trump's signature initiatives: separated families, kids in cages, sweeps through so-called sanctuary cities by Immigration and Customs Enforcement officers and the ban on travel from many majority-Muslim countries. "Dreamers" who have never known any other home than the U.S. will be safe under the Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals program that Trump tried to cancel.

ICE intrusions into communities will be curbed, families will be reunited and conditions in immigrant detention camps will improve dramatically. But when it comes to the thorny issue of Central American asylum seekers, Biden's policy is unlikely to swing in a direction radically opposite to the one under Trump.

Mayorkas has publicly signaled his sympathy with migrants seeking refuge in the U.S. And he helped design the DACA program when he served under President Barack Obama as deputy secretary of Homeland Security, which oversees ICE and the Border Patrol.

But the Obama administration had its own tough border policies, and the selection of Mayorkas may signal Biden's desire to continue with that approach. Obama presided over a record number of deportations—surpassing even Trump in raw numbers—though he focused mainly on deporting those who committed serious crimes.

When a surge of Central Americans came north in 2014, Obama enacted policies that, while nowhere near as severe as Trump's, were explicitly intended to deter migrants.

Biden, then serving as vice president, told Guatemalans in 2014: "Those who are pondering risking their lives to reach the United States should be aware of what awaits them. It will not be open arms ... we're going to send the vast majority of you back."

Years of witnessing Trump's cruelty will temper that harsh message substantially. But the fact remains that both Biden and

By NOAH SMITH
Bloomberg View

Noah Smith is a Bloomberg Opinion columnist. He was an assistant professor of finance at Stony Brook University, and he blogs at Noahpinion.



Mayorkas are veterans of an administration that also saw caravans of asylum seekers as a problem.

In the 2010s, a wave of families came seeking refuge from the poor and violent countries of Honduras, Guatemala and El Salvador. This wave was only a fraction of the number of people who had immigrated from Mexico in previous decades, but the sight of tens of thousands of destitute Central American families streaming north alarmed many conservatives.

Compounding this was the fact that the U.S. system didn't really have a good way to deal with large numbers of people crossing the border illegally and then turning themselves in to authorities and requesting asylum. It generally wasn't possible to tell whether these people were coming for economic reasons or to escape the endemic violence that plagues many Central American countries—in fact, it was probably almost always a mix of both. And even if judges decided most migrants didn't deserve asylum, the long waiting periods before their hearings tempted some to slip away to live in the U.S. without documents.

Trump's policies quashed that asylum wave. In addition to the cruel treatment, Trump deployed a blizzard of legal changes. He tightened the standards for granting asylum, required many migrants to remain in Mexico while awaiting their hearings, and struck agreements that sent many asylum seekers to Central American countries different from their origin nation. As a result, the border surge had fizzled out even before the COVID-19 pandemic struck.

If Biden hits reverse too hard, it could cost him politically. In economic terms, a few hundred thousand Central American migrants will do little to hurt the U.S., but their presence will rile up law-and-order voters who bristle at the notion of people crossing the border illegally or skipping out on asylum hearings. That could hurt Biden with constituencies like Hispanic voters

See BIDEN'S on Next Page

EDITORIAL POLICY

Letters to the editor must include the NAME, VILLAGE ADDRESS, and CONTACT NUMBER of the contributor. Letters that do not have these information will immediately be trashed. Contributions consisting of 500 words or less have more chances of getting published. The *Saipan Tribune* reserves the right to publish a contribution or not; the right to edit submissions for length, accuracy, and clarity; and the right to publish and distribute contributions in print, electronic, or other media formats. Submissions may be sent via snail mail to the 2nd Floor, JP Center, Beach Road, Garapan, Saipan, 96950; fax (670) 235-3740; e-mail to editor@saipantribune.com; or through our website at www.saipantribune.com.

Thanksgiving 2020: Counting simple gifts in a tough year for everybody

Everyone, even the mildly optimistic American, will come to the Thanksgiving table this year feeling worn out, worried, disappointed or cheated. Directly or indirectly, everyone has experienced the pandemic and the final, exhausting run of the Donald Trump presidency.

As years go, 2020 will live in infamy because so many of our fellow Americans died from a disease caused by the coronavirus. If this were not the 21st century, if we did not live in an advanced society capable of limiting the ravages of a virus, we would be a nation in dutiful mourning, accepting cruel fate and placing wreaths on graves. Instead, we mix anger with mourning because our leadership failed early in responding to the threat and the virus has taken a heavier toll than it should have. We give thanks for being Americans, but now know, if we didn't already, that our country is far from exceptional, both by its choice of president these last four years and by our national performance against the worst pandemic in a century.

Still, here in the final weeks of 2020, we're supposed to observe tradition (without large gatherings), take stock and give thanks.

That seems like a contradiction—expressing gratitude in a year that many speak of profanely—but then, the reasons we give thanks have always been personal.

Thanksgiving asks us to conduct an annual inventory and be grateful for the simple things, and I'm guessing that's collectively truer this year than all others.

If no one in the family died from the virus, if you have decent health, if you still have a job or if you own a business that's still operating, even at lower capacity, you're thankful for the chance to survive and get to the other side of the pandemic. You keep things in perspective: Everyone in your family made it to

THURSDAY



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Thanksgiving.

"I'm happy and blessed that no one in my family is suffering from COVID," says Tim Wolf, a fishing acquaintance who's been out of work since March and collecting unemployment benefits. "I have seven brothers and sisters, and we're all healthy, and so are all of our children. Our faith is holding us together. It's been a little stressful, but we're all gonna get through this. It's just gonna take more time than we thought."

If you're not as sanguine—if you took a devastatingly emotional, physical or financial hit—even then, you can find reasons to give thanks: Vaccines are on the winter horizon. There will be a new president in January focused on getting the country through the crisis and rebuilding the damaged economy. Joe Biden also wants to rebuild our alliances and show the world that our democracy survived these last four years.

Maybe you don't want to hear that. Maybe you come to Thanksgiving in no mood for turkey or taking stock.

Everybody does what they want—it is, mercifully, a quiet holiday of modest expectations—but I suggest the therapeutic counting of simple gifts, like being able to breathe and taste food. I suggest taking a walk and finding a good tree to admire. Scan what's around you in the natural world as if you have title to it and, like the troubled character who leaves a psychiatrist's office in an E.B. White short story, look for the "flashing tail feathers of the bird courage."

If it's any help, this is some of what I came up with in my Thanksgiving inventory:

I'm grateful for the bounty of Roma tomatoes and Cubanelle peppers that came from my COVID Victory Garden, and kept coming until just a couple of weeks ago.

I give thanks to the workers at Giant, ShopRite, Safeway and

By **DAN RODRICKS**
The Baltimore Sun



Dan Rodricks is a long-time columnist for The Baltimore Sun.

all the supermarkets for keeping the shelves stocked as best they could through the early part of the pandemic.

I'd like to give a personal shout of gratitude to the great blue heron who hung out with me for about three hours one day in April during the shad run on Deer Creek.

Thanks to the postal carriers, the guys who pick up our trash, the men and women who deliver packages for UPS, FedEx and Amazon. I have renewed appreciation for what they do, with so much more expected of them during the pandemic.

I thank the people we can't see—the doctors, nurses and staff deep inside hospitals treating COVID-19 patients on top of everything else they do.

I'm thankful for the people in lab coats working on vaccines.

Let's show some gratitude for all the teachers working hard to make education happen under tough circumstances.

We should be grateful for all the 2020 elections officials and poll workers, too.

I want to thank the people behind Orinoco Coffee, based in Jessup, Maryland, for an outstanding cup of coffee each morning.

I'm thankful for 85-year-old Gina Petitti and her Buon-A-Petitti YouTube channel. During the pandemic, it has been a great comfort to watch this grandmother cook Italian food in her kitchen in New Jersey.

Thanks to our friends: Maureen for the big slab of peach pie in August, and Mike for finally printing the photograph he took of my family back when the world was young; it lit up an old sweet memory.

And I'd like to thank the giant American elm in my neighborhood for its endurance, for providing cooling shade in the Baltimore summer and stunning silhouettes against the sunrises of winter.

Surviving the holidays during a pandemic: A guide

By **PHYLLIS MEYERSON and MICHAEL FRIEDMAN**
THE BALTIMORE SUN

For many people, the winter holidays are fun, warm and spiritually uplifting. But for many others, holiday celebrations are an emotional mixed bag—happy reunions with family and friends on the one hand and disappointments on the other.

This year many older adults will experience additional emotional struggles because of the pandemic—especially loneliness for those who are sheltering-in-place and are socially isolated, and heightened family tensions for those who are essentially locked in with family.

Merely getting together will be exceedingly difficult for those

who take the need for social distancing seriously. Recently, public health researchers are advising us that even getting together in small groups can be risky.

Here are a few thoughts to help deal with the winter holiday gatherings this year:

Make a decision in advance whether you and your loved ones can have in-person gatherings or must instead meet virtually.

If in-person, follow basic safety ground rules for safe interaction. Hopefully, this will not be a matter of disagreement within your family.

If you choose videoconference, keep in mind that, unlike typical holiday tables, not everyone can talk at once. So, try to create a structure that will involve everyone.

Also keep in mind that it is very difficult to have separate conversations on videoconference. This limits the common safety valve of getting away from the people who distress you and spending time with people you enjoy most. Plan separate conversations with these people.

Unless your social style as a group is enjoyably argumentative, try to set aside differences. Focus on what you share rather than on what divides you. This may not be easy during this historical moment of great political anger.

Also, try to accept family and friends as they are, even if they don't live up to all of your expectations. Remember that Uncle Joe will probably repeat the embarrassing things he said last year. And your children will probably still not be exactly who you want them to be.

When you feel a surge of disappointment or anger, take a deep breath and bite your tongue. Open expression of these kinds of feelings generally just makes things worse.

Keep in mind that the holidays do not have to be perfect. Good enough is, well, good enough. And for that matter, terrible blunders—like a dropped turkey—sometimes make the

By **PHYLLIS MEYERSON and MICHAEL FRIEDMAN**
The Baltimore Sun

Phyllis Meyerson and Michael Friedman (mb-friedman@aol.com) are both retired social workers who work as volunteers with AARP of Maryland. Meyerson heads the Speaker's Bureau, and Friedman chairs the Brain and Behavioral Health Advocacy Team.



best family memories.

Try to anticipate, and have a plan for how to deal with, emotionally difficult situations.

Avoid excessive alcohol consumption. Try not to use getting high to deal with difficult emotions or to help you relax and have a good time. Binge drinking, with its inevitable hangovers, is not a good idea.

If you feel down or stressed out more than usual, have more difficulty sleeping or don't find pleasure in anything or anyone, seek help. Talking with a good friend, your doctor or a mental health professional may be in order.

If you or someone you know is feeling suicidal or experiencing a psychiatric crisis, call 1-800-273-TALK, the national suicide prevention lifeline.

Yes, this is a difficult year—all the more reason to renew bonds and create a sense of shared meaning. We will come through it!

BIDEN'S

From Page 10

who live in the Texas border counties that swung hard to Trump in 2020.

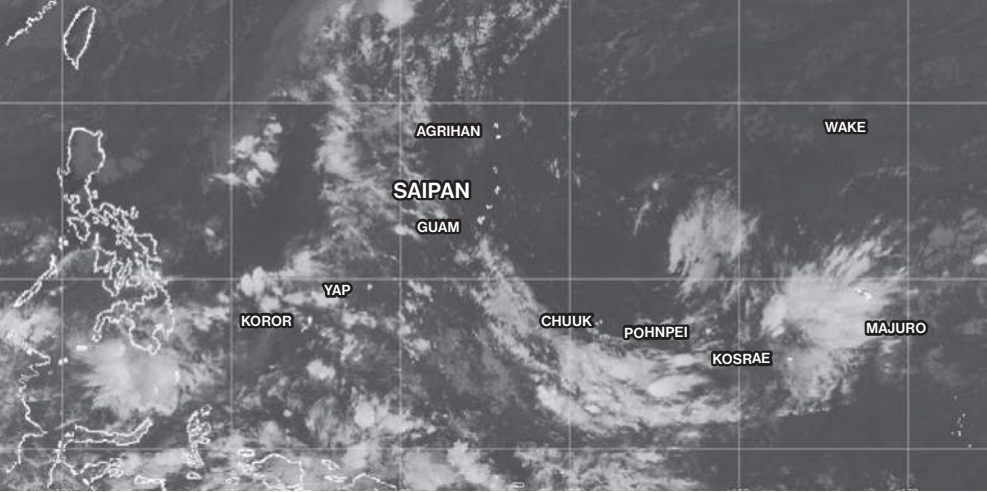
That means that the new administration is highly unlikely to embrace radical pro-immigration ideas like open borders, or recent Democratic presidential candidate Julian Castro's call to decriminalize unauthorized border crossing.

Instead, Biden and Mayorkas will probably try to accept asylum seekers from Central America at a slow and ordered pace. Detention will probably persist, in a much more humane form. And Biden may even negotiate new, though less rigid, agreements to keep some asylum seekers at home as the administration tries to improve living conditions in those countries.

In other words, expect Biden's policy toward Central American migrants to be more welcoming than Obama's, but not nearly as welcoming as many activists would like.

The Weather

5-DAY FORECAST FOR SAIPAN AND TINIAN									
TODAY		FRIDAY		SATURDAY		SUNDAY		MONDAY	
Partly cloudy with isolated showers and thunderstorms. East winds 15 to 20 mph. Highs around 88.		Partly sunny with isolated showers. East winds 15 to 20 mph.		Mostly cloudy with scattered locally heavy showers and isolated thunderstorms.		Mostly cloudy with scattered locally heavy showers and isolated thunderstorms.		Mostly cloudy. Isolated showers and thunderstorms.	
88°	77°	88°	77°	87°	77°	87°	77°	87°	78°
YESTERDAY'S SATELLITE IMAGE									



PICTURE TIME: 6:50 AM, WEDNESDAY, NOVEMBER 25, 2020

Western North Pacific between equator and 25N from 130E to 180.

Satellite and radar imagery show scattered showers and isolated thunderstorms, some with gusts to around 30 mph, near Guam and Rota, while drier conditions are seen farther north toward Tinian and Saipan. A surface trough is making its way to the west of Guam and is being followed by a trade-wind surge, just now reaching into the Marianas. A broad upper-level low is seen north of Pohnpei near 12N157E and, while drier air is seen between it and the Marianas, upper-level flow is helping to trigger a few thunderstorms to the east of 150E. Buoys show seas of 5 to 6 feet across the Marianas.

Satellite image and accompanying information are provided by the National Weather Service. For an updated weather forecast, visit the National Weather Service Guam homepage: www.prh.noaa.gov/guam/

STOP THE SPREAD

The Governor's COVID-19 Task Force and Commonwealth Healthcare Corp. continue to encourage residents within the Marianas to practice social distancing, which means avoiding close contact with people in order to avoid catching the virus yourself and to avoid passing it on to others.

- Stay home as much as possible. Avoid unnecessary travel or public places.
- Avoid social gatherings in groups of more than 10.
- Choose drive-thru, take-out, or delivery options, or outdoor seating, if available, when dining in.
- Send only one healthy adult from the household run necessary errands, such as getting groceries or picking up medications. Leave children, elderly, and other vulnerable people at home as much as possible. When returning home from an errand, wash your hands before doing anything else.
- Older adults and people with chronic medical conditions are at higher risk of getting very sick from this illness. People at high risk should stay at home as much as possible.
- Create a household plan of action, <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/prepare/checklisthousehold-ready.html>
- Ensure a 30-day supply of all medicines.

Continue good hand hygiene

- Wash your hands for at least 20 seconds with soap and water, avoid touching your face, cover coughs and sneezes with a tissue or your sleeve.
- Use an alcohol-based hand sanitizer if soap and water are not readily available.

Know the signs and symptoms of COVID-19 and what to do if you become symptomatic

- Stay home when you are sick and if you recently traveled to a place with COVID-19. Self-quarantine means:
 - Choosing a room in your house that can be used to separate sick household members from others.
 - Washing your hands often with soap and water for at least 20

seconds. If soap and water are not available, use an alcohol-based hand sanitizer.

- Avoiding touching your eyes, nose, and mouth with unwashed hands.
- Limiting visitors

CHCC appreciates the patience and understanding of the community at this time. To obtain general information about the CNMI COVID-19 response, contact the Governor's COVID-19 Task Force Hotline at 287-0046, 287-0489, 287-1089. These numbers are available Monday to Sunday, 7:30am - 4:30pm.

For medical information about COVID-19, reach out to the COVID-19 Infoline at the following numbers: 285-1672/1352. These numbers are available Monday to Friday, 7:30am - 4:30pm.

For mental health support and helpful tips during a crisis, call the Mental Health Support Line at 285-1856, 323-6560, 323-6561 These numbers are available Monday to Friday, 7:30am - 4:30 pm. For the 24/7 Disaster Distress Helpline, call SAMSHA at 1-800-985-5990.

For more information about DIY face coverings, visit <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/prevent-getting-sick/cloth-face-cover.html>

For more information about CHCC programs, follow CHCC on Facebook, Instagram, Twitter at @cnmichcc, check out our website at www.chcc.gov.mp or call us at (670) 234-8950.

For more information on the Governor's COVID-19 Task Force, visit www.governor.gov.mp and, follow @GovernorCNMI on Facebook, Instagram, and Twitter.

This health advisory may be found online at <http://www.chcc.gov.mp/pressrelease.html> and at www.governor.gov.mp/covid-19.

Rumor control

During crises like this, oftentimes the spread of misinformation is just as dangerous as the virus itself. The CNMI is reminded to only share official and verified notices, press releases, and advisories from the Governor's COVID-19 Task Force and CHCC.

Source: Office of the Governor

MICRONESIA			▲ ▼ °F
Guam and Rota	Thunderstorms	86° / 79°	
Palau	Partly Cloudy	86° / 78°	
Yap	Thunderstorms	86° / 80°	
Chuuk	Thunderstorms	86° / 81°	
Pohnpei	Thunderstorms	86° / 77°	
Kosrae	Thunderstorms	86° / 77°	
Majuro	Thunderstorms	85° / 80°	

DAY	SUNRISE	SUNSET
Today	6:24 AM	5:44 PM
Friday	6:24 AM	5:44 PM
Saturday	6:25 AM	5:44 PM
Sunday	6:26 AM	5:44 PM
Monday	6:26 AM	5:44 PM

DAY	MOONRISE	MOONSET	MOONRISE
Today	-	2:51 AM	3:08 PM
Friday	-	3:37 AM	3:43 PM
Saturday	-	4:24 AM	4:19 PM
Sunday	-	5:12 AM	4:58 PM
Monday	-	6:01 AM	5:40 PM

AROUND THE GLOBE			▲ ▼ °F
Auckland	Cloudy	72° / 61°	
Beijing	Sunny	34° / 19°	
Hong Kong	Showers	79° / 72°	
Honolulu	Showers	81° / 73°	
London	Mostly Sunny	43° / 36°	
Los Angeles	Mostly Sunny	75° / 55°	
Manila	Partly Cloudy	90° / 79°	
Melbourne	Mostly Sunny	93° / 70°	
Miami	Thunderstorms	79° / 73°	
New York	Sunny	57° / 47°	
Osaka	Showers	64° / 52°	
Paris	Showers	46° / 32°	
Busan	Partly Cloudy	55° / 48°	
Rome	Partly Cloudy	54° / 36°	
Salem	Sunny	67° / 47°	
San Francisco	Partly Cloudy	58° / 48°	
Seoul	Mostly Cloudy	37° / 19°	
Tokyo	Partly Cloudy	64° / 48°	
Washington, DC	Sunny	61° / 43°	

TIDES: SAIPAN HARBOR TODAY			FEET
5:28 AM	HIGH TIDE	1.27	
10:59 AM	LOW TIDE	0.58	
5:12 PM	HIGH TIDE	1.67	
-	-	-	

FLIGHT SCHEDULE AS OF NOVEMBER 1, 2020

DEPARTURES				ARRIVALS			
SAIPAN-GUAM (GUM)				GUAM (GUM)-SAIPAN			
UA117	6:55am	7:35am	1, 4, 6	UA174	5:10am	5:51am	1, 4, 6
SAIPAN-MANILA (MNL)				MANILA (MNL)-SAIPAN			
UA117/183	6:55am	9:50pm	1 via Guam	UA184/174	10:40pm	5:51am+1	3, 5 via Guam
GUAM-MANILA (MNL)				MANILA (MNL)-GUAM			
UA183	8:00pm	9:50pm	1, 3, 5	UA184	10:40pm	4:30am+1	1, 3, 5

LEGEND: Days: Monday (1), Tuesday (2), Wednesday (3), Thursday (4), Friday (5), Saturday (6) and Sunday (7); UA United Airlines • ETD: Estimated Time of Departure; ETA: Estimated Time of Arrival. *(The Saipan Tribune is not responsible for any changes in the schedule.)*

STAR MARIANAS AIR, INC.

FLIGHT SCHEDULE AS OF OCTOBER 8, 2020

SAIPAN TO ROTA				1205	11:00	11:15	Temporarily Unavailable
FLIGHT #	DEPARTURE	ARRIVAL	FREQUENCY	1206	12:00	12:15	Temporarily Unavailable
1301	8:30AM	9:00AM	Mon/Tues/Wed/Thurs/Fri	1207	13:00	13:15	Temporarily Unavailable
1302	11:00AM	11:30AM	Mon/Tues/Wed/Thurs/Fri	1208	14:00	14:15	Temporarily Unavailable
1303	3:30PM	4:00PM	Mon/Wed/Fri	1209	15:00	15:15	Daily
ROTA TO SAIPAN				1210	16:00	16:15	Daily
FLIGHT #	DEPARTURE	ARRIVAL	FREQUENCY	1211	17:00	17:15	Temporarily Unavailable
3101	9:30AM	10:00AM	Mon/Tues/Wed/Thurs/Fri	1212	18:00	18:15	Temporarily Unavailable
3102	12:00AM	12:30AM	Mon/Tues/Wed/Thurs/Fri				
3103	4:30PM	5:00PM	Mon/Wed/Fri	TINIAN TO SAIPAN			
ROTA TO GUAM				FLIGHT #	DEPARTURE	ARRIVAL	FREQUENCY
FLIGHT #	DEPARTURE	ARRIVAL	FREQUENCY	2101	7:30	7:45	Temporarily Unavailable
3401	12:15	12:45	Temporarily Unavailable	2102	8:30	8:45	Daily
GUAM TO ROTA				2103	9:30	9:45	Daily
FLIGHT #	DEPARTURE	ARRIVAL	FREQUENCY	2104	10:30	10:45	Temporarily Unavailable
4301	13:00	13:30	Temporarily Unavailable	2105	11:30	11:45	Temporarily Unavailable
SAIPAN TO TINIAN				2106	12:30	12:45	Temporarily Unavailable
FLIGHT #	DEPARTURE	ARRIVAL	FREQUENCY	2107	13:30	13:45	Temporarily Unavailable
1201	7:00	7:15	Temporarily Unavailable	2108	14:30	14:45	Temporarily Unavailable
1202	8:00	8:15	Daily	2109	15:30	15:45	Daily
1203	9:00	9:15	Daily	2110	16:30	16:45	Daily
1204	10:00	10:15	Temporarily Unavailable	2111	17:30	17:45	Temporarily Unavailable
				2112	18:30	18:45	Temporarily Unavailable

NEWS DESK For news tips, corrections and requests for news coverage, call (670) 235-NEWS (6397), 235-2440, fax 235.3740. E-mail: editor@saipantribune.com. Website:www.saipantribune.com.

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ADVERTISING For inquiries contact (670) 235-2769. E-mail: sales@saipantribune.com

Attention CNMI Government Employees, Retirees and Surviving Spouses

It's Open Enrollment time

Open enrollment runs Monday, November 16 — Friday, December 18

We're honored to continue delivering health insurance coverage and well-being resources to CNMI Government active employees, retirees, surviving spouses and your families throughout this challenging year and beyond.

Our goal is to provide you with access to the highest levels of care and support possible through our:

- Strong local presence, in partnership with Pacifica Insurance Underwriters, Inc.
- Comprehensive global resources
- 24/7 Member Service Support

Due to COVID-19 your enrollment experience looks different this year. But don't worry ... we've got you covered.

Your health and safety are paramount. That's why we're doing Open Enrollment a little differently this year:

- We're adhering to COVID-19 safety protocols and government regulations
- Visit the websites listed below to view your Open Enrollment material and enrollment/change of status form to help you choose the best plan for you and your loved ones
- Open Enrollment support will be available by phone (in-person meetings will be limited to appointment only)

After reviewing your plan options and premium cost share, if you're satisfied with your current plan and coverage, you DO NOT need to submit an enrollment form. Your current benefits will be rolled over into the new plan year and you'll continue to use your current Member ID card.

However, if after reading through your Open Enrollment material you'd like additional support, we will be happy to help:

- For Open Enrollment inquiries, contact Pacifica locally at: **670-234-6267** Monday — Friday, 8 AM-5 PM
- For non-OE related inquiries, contact our Member Service Center 24/7 at: **800-231-7729**

Websites to help you choose a plan:

- Aetna International: **www.AetnaInternational.com/cnmi-ghli**
- CNMI Dept of Finance: **www.dof.gov.mp**
- Pacifica Insurance Underwriters, Inc.: **www.pacificains.com/ghlit**

Upon completing an Enrollment/Change of Status Form, deliver your Form and any required documentation:

- Active employees: to your respective Agency/Department of Human Resources
- Retirees and surviving spouses: to Pacifica located in the Joeten Shopping Center, Insatto St., Susupe

Open enrollment runs Monday, November 16 — Friday, December 18.

AetnaInternational.com

46.12.334.1-AP (11/20)





We wish you a meaningful

HAPPY

Thanksgiving

From the management and staff of



Tan Holdings

www.tanholdings.com

Tan Siu Lin
Foundation

Admin leave OK'd for gov't workers

Heading into the Thanksgiving holiday weekend, Gov. Ralph DLG Torres authorized non-critical employees of the Commonwealth's departments and agencies to take administrative leave at 1pm yesterday, Nov. 25, 2020, and for all of Friday, Nov. 27, 2020.

In a statement last Tuesday from the Office of the Governor, it quoted Torres as saying: "Despite the challenges the pandemic has brought this past year, we are blessed and grateful to be living in one of the safest places in the United States from COVID-19. As we celebrate Thanksgiving, we are reminded of the hard work being done every day by our doctors, nurses, first responders, COVID-19 Task Force, and government employees to protect our community. During this unprecedented time, the proactive leadership of our government, dedication of

our public servants, and the cooperation of our community are among the many things we are grateful for in a year filled with global challenges.

"To everyone who calls the Marianas home, Lt. Gov. [Arnold I.] Palacios and I thank you all for looking out for one another this year. It takes a home, a village, an island, and one Commonwealth to keep our closely-knit community safe, and we did that together against all odds.

"As we reflect on the graces we have received this year, let us not forget our friends and neighbors this time of year. Let us use this holiday weekend as a time to share our blessings and continue to look out for one another.

"We wish you all an abundance of blessings and a happy and healthy Thanksgiving." (PR)

CHamoru commission meeting set

The *Kumisión i Fino' CHamoru yan i Fina'ná'guen i Historia yan i Lina'la'i Tao-tao Tâno'* (Commission on CHamoru Language and the Teaching of the History and Culture of the Indigenous People of Guam) will hold its first December monthly

meeting on Dec. 3, 2020, Thursday, from 12:30pm to 3:30pm on a virtual Zoom meeting. Call Kumisión secretary Roland Blas for special accommodations, Zoom link information, and agenda at 480-4047 or email at rolandblas1973@gmail.com. (PR)

Budweiser BUD LIGHT Current MAR PAC INC.

HAPPY
Thanksgiving
Day

from your friends at Marpac.

ENJOY RESPONSIBLY | FOLLOW US @CURRENTCMI

Latte Built Gym now an NMC ProaPerks Partner



Latte Built Gym is now a proud NMC ProaPerks Partner. All card-carrying members of the ProaPerks program can avail of 10% off on supplements and merchandise at the gym's Oleai and Kagman locations.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Latte Built Gym is the latest company to sign on as a Northern Marianas College ProaPerks Partner, joining many other businesses and organizations that provide exclusive discounts and benefits for NMC students, employees, and alumni.

All card-carrying members of the NMC ProaPerks program can now avail of 10% off on supplements and merchandise at the Oleai and Kagman locations of Latte Built Gym.

Other ProaPerks Partners are 4EVER CNMI, Alamo Car Rental, All Star Sporting Goods, Athlete's Foot, Boarderline, Bubba Gump, Caravan of Food, Casa Urashima, Docomo Pacific, Dollar Days (Garapan), Enterprise Car Rental, Ete Cafe, Fishing Tackle and Sporting Goods,

Garapan Restaurant, Great Harvest, Kiki's, National Car Rental, Natural Nail & Spa, NMC Bookstore, Pena House Boutique, Saipan Computer Services, Salty's, Surf Club, Shirley's Coffee Shop, Tribe Marianas, Triple J Motors, and The Pacific Supply.

NMC is in the introductory phase of rolling out the ProaPerks to alumni, students, and employees. For more information, visit marianas.edu/proaperks.php. Companies and other interested organizations who would like to become part of the ProaPerks program and take advantage of the buying power of thousands of individuals that include NMC alumni, students, and employees, can find more information by emailing proaperks@marianas.edu. (PR)

Public warned of rip currents

The public is being warned of a high risk for rip currents until Saturday.

Based on the information received from the National Weather Service in Tiyan, Guam, and compiled at the CNMI Emergency Operations Center State Warning Point, there is a high rip current risk expected through Saturday along east-facing reefs of Guam, Saipan, Tinian, and Rota.

Rip currents can sweep even the best swimmers away from shore into deeper water. Residents are advised to avoid venturing out towards east-facing reefs. Swim near a lifeguard. If caught in a rip current, relax and float. Don't swim against the current. If able, swim in a direction following the shoreline. If unable to escape, face the shore and call or wave for help. (PR)

DURING THIS SEASON OF

gratitude,


LET'S GIVE THANKS




FOR THE IMPORTANT THINGS IN LIFE:

FAMILY, FRIENDS AND HEALTH

FROM OUR FAMILIA TO YOURS,

Happy Thanksgiving



bankofguam.com   

Member FDIC

Give thanks with a grateful heart

Today, tomorrow, always.

Happy Thanksgiving!





To all our voters, donors, supporters, and volunteers

We Thank You

We will continue to give thanks for the abundance of blessings and may the joys of today fill your hearts and homes with happiness always.

H A P P Y
Thanksgiving

M A R I A N A S

From the NMI Democratic Party and your 2020 Candidates:

Edith Deleon Guerrero, Jose Cruz, Paul Manglona, Celina Roberto, Antonio Cabrera, Peter Muna, Ben Piteg, Ed Propst, Tina Sablan, Luella Marciano, Vicente Camacho, Corina Magofna, Denita Yangetmai, Alfred Saures, Jenita Castro, Sheila Babauta, Richard Lizama, Leila Staffler, Fred Dela Cruz, and Donald Manglona

Black Friday big sale at Kensington Hotel

By BEA CABRERA
beacabrerasaipan@gmail.com
CORRESPONDENT

Kensington Hotel Saipan is getting on in the Black Friday Sale tradition this Friday, Nov. 27.

For just one day, Kensington Hotel Saipan is offering 70% off on all Mandarin Duck Steady Seller Collection, including hand-carry (cabin baggage), luggage, backpack, tote bag, and T-shirts. The sale is happening at the hotel's Queen's Club.

"The Black Friday Big Sale will take place at Queen's Club, a function room which can accommodate up to 200 people for normal meeting setup. The big space will help you minimize human interaction by creating a 'self-service' shopping pattern as we will implement COVID-19 health and safety guidelines," said sales and marketing manager Katy Hung.

All available items will be displayed in designated areas for guest to look, touch, and check the quality. "With inventory just right at the corner, guests can easily retrieve the items themselves before proceeding to check-out. ... If we reach maximum occupancy at Queen's Club, we encourage guests to sign up and leave their

contact number with our staff, while they enjoy a cup of coffee or a piece of cake at OHAS Café while waiting," she added.

Aside from bag shopping, Kensington has also prepared special discounts on food and beverage. Still ongoing is the "I am November Man" promo that allows guests to avail of room promotions. "Guests can enjoy 10% off room rates, receive two complimentary drinks during your stay, and get one 30% discount coupon from OHAS. ... Just mention the special code 'I am November Man' and you are good to go," Hung said.

"Also for the month of November, Loria has come up with a theme called "A Colorful Daily Gourmet Trip," where guests can taste flavors from all over the world. ... The 'Irresistible Sunday Brunch' continues to impress every Sunday from 11:30am to 2pm and the regular 10% local discount applies. ... For Thanksgiving, our 'Turkey To Go' is now available," Hung added.

For reservation and inquiries, call (670) 322-3311, or reservations@kensingtonsaipan.com or go to their Facebook page: <https://www.facebook.com/kensingtonsaipan> to receive first-hand update.



At this time of Thanksgiving celebration, our thoughts turn gratefully to you with warm appreciation. Our best wishes for the holiday season.

HAPPY

Thanksgiving

From the management and staff of



Century Insurance Co., Ltd.

A TanHoldings Company

PMB 193 Box 10000 Saipan MP 96950 • Tel. No. 1-670-234-0609/10

Happy Thanksgiving

Wishing you all the gift of faith and blessing of hope this Thanksgiving.



FROM THE OFFICE OF
CONGRESSMAN

FLAORES
JOSEPH ARRIOLA

Business

3M Saipan vows comfort, clarity



CONTRIBUTED PHOTOS

3M Saipan is located along Middle Road beside Rock Steady Shop.

By **BEA CABRERA**
beacabrerasaipan@gmail.com
CORRESPONDENT

A moderately hot day on Saipan averages between 76°F and maximum of 85°F and it can be uncomfortable for many that's why 3M Saipan using "Crystal Ecology" found a niche in providing comfort and clarity to cars and other vehicles.

Established eight years ago, 3M Saipan has been the trusted company for tinting services to vehicles, offices, and homes by rejecting heat more than other tints or films making indoors cool.

"We provide all window films—automotive, commercial, and residential. Our products are guaranteed quality as they are shipped from Japan and in 2016, we became the dealer of 3M Window Films," said 3M Saipan president Katsumi Tsukagoshi.

"Our popular tint or film products include 3M FX Premium for cars and 3M Prestige Series for buildings... other materials that we use come from the U.S. mainland," Tsukagoshi added.

Customer satisfaction is guaranteed as customers get a warranty from the products that they purchase from 3M. "For fading and bubbling, we

provide three years warranty. For tinting cars, we spend half a day for a car. As for buildings and residential, it depends on how big or wide the windows are but we do it efficiently," Tsukagoshi said.

"We prefer that our customers come by the shop and make an appointment. We are located on Middle Road beside Megabyte Saipan and Rock Steady," he added.



CONTRIBUTED PHOTOS

For eight years, 3M Saipan has been providing tint and films to commercial establishments, residential, and any type of vehicles.

3M Saipan applies science and innovation and these tools are used in every project that they work on.

Aside from various vehicles, we have provided office window installation services for the U.S. District Court on Middle Road, luxury shops in Garapan, MH-1 Building in Puerto Rico, Caravan Restaurant in Garapan, to name a few," Tsukagoshi said.

"For Thanksgiving, we are having a special offer with tints and films starting at \$265. The promo started in Nov. 5 and it will run until the 28th. I encourage everyone to drop by the shop and learn more of our products," he added.

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H A P P Y
Thanksgiving

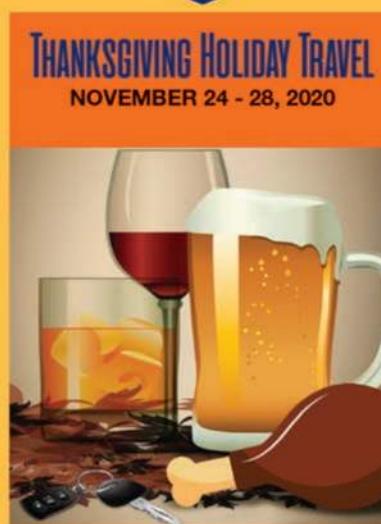
"Be kind,
be thoughtful,
be genuine,
but most of all,
be thankful."

From the office of Senator
Jude Untalan Hofschneider,
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OCTOBER 31, 2020

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drunk
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Nation

‘America is back’: Biden pushes past Trump era with nominees

WILMINGTON, Del. (AP)— Declaring “America is back,” President-elect Joe Biden introduced his national security team on Tuesday, his first substantive offering of how he’ll

shift from Trump-era “America First” policies by relying on experts from the Democratic establishment to be some of his most important advisers.

“Together, these public servants will restore America globally, its global leadership and its moral leadership,” Biden said from a theater in his longtime home of Wilmington, Delaware. “It’s a team that reflects the fact that America is back, ready to lead the world, not retreat from it.”

The nominees are all Washington veterans with ties to former President Barack Obama’s administration, a

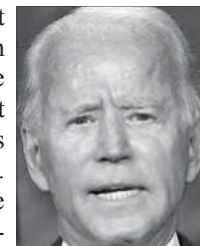
sign of Biden’s effort to resume some form of normalcy after the tumult of President Donald Trump’s four years in office. There are risks to the approach as Republicans plan attacks and progressives fret

that Biden is tapping some officials who were too cautious and incremental the last time they held power.

Still, Biden’s nominees were a clear departure from Trump, whose Cabinet has largely consisted of men, almost all of them white. Biden’s picks included several women and people of color, some of whom would break barriers if confirmed to their new positions.

They stood behind Biden and Vice President-elect Kamala Harris spaced apart and wearing masks to prevent the spread of the coronavirus, a contrast with Trump and many of his top aides who have largely eschewed facial coverings.

The president-elect’s team includes Antony Blinken, a veteran foreign policy hand



Biden

well-regarded on Capitol Hill whose ties to Biden go back some 20 years, for secretary of state; lawyer Alejandro Mayorkas to be homeland security secretary; veteran diplomat Linda Thomas-Greenfield to be U.S. ambassador to the United Nations; and Obama White House alumnus Jake Sullivan as national security adviser.

Avril Haines, a former deputy director of the CIA, was picked to serve as director of national intelligence, the first woman to hold that post, and former Secretary of State John Kerry will make a curtain call as a special envoy on climate change. Kerry and Sullivan’s position will not require Senate confirmation.

With the Senate’s balance of power hinging on two runoff races in Georgia that will be decided in January, some Senate Republicans have already expressed antipathy to Biden’s picks as little more than Obama world retreads.

Sen. Tom Cotton, an Arkansas Republican and potential

2024 presidential candidate, argued that Biden is surrounding himself with people who will go soft on China.

Sen. Marco Rubio, another potential White House hopeful, who sits on the Senate Foreign Relations Committee that will consider Blinken’s nomination, broadly wrote off the early selections.

“Biden’s cabinet picks went to Ivy League schools, have strong resumes, attend all the right conferences & will be polite & orderly caretakers of America’s decline,” Rubio tweeted.

Biden said his choices “reflect the idea that we cannot meet these challenges with old thinking and unchanged habits.” He said he tasked them with reasserting global and moral leadership, a clear swipe at Trump, who has resisted many traditional foreign alliances.

The president-elect said he was “struck” by how world leaders have repeatedly told him during congratulatory calls that they look forward to the U.S. “reasserting its historic role as a global leader” under his administration.

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Trump skips turkey jokes, gives thanks for COVID-19 vaccines

WASHINGTON (AP)—Nostalgia was in and jokes were out Tuesday as President Donald Trump offered a reprieve to a pair of meaty turkeys at the traditional Thanksgiving turkey pardon ceremony at the White House.

The National Turkey Federation presented the White House with two birds, Corn and Cob. Corn was declared the national Thanksgiving turkey, though both will retire to a new home on the campus of Iowa State University.

It's not the first time the typically light-hearted turkey pardon ceremony has taken place in a tense time for the nation.

This time, the ceremony came amid a global pandemic and as Trump refuses to concede he lost his reelection bid. In his remarks, Trump cited the vaccines that could soon receive emergency approval from U.S. regulators.

"We give thanks for the vaccines and therapies that will soon end the pandemic," Trump said at one point. He did not reference the recent surge in confirmed COVID-19 cases in many parts of the country.

The turkey pardon ceremony came just a few hours after President-elect Joe Biden announced his national security team and emphasized the need to work with allies. Trump worked into his remarks a familiar refrain of his presidency: "America first -- shouldn't go away from that," he said.

Trump did not take questions from reporters as he spoke in the Rose Garden to more than 100 staff and guests, the vast majority wearing masks. His tone was more serious than in prior turkey pardon ceremonies.

Trump used last year's pardon to make jokes about the impeachment process. The House would go on to approve two articles of impeachment the next month and the Senate would subsequently vote to acquit him.

In 2018, Trump joked about one of the turkeys contesting the election. The scenario he described bears a striking resemblance to the one he faces today. "This was a fair election," the president joked two years ago. "Unfortunately, Carrots refused to concede and demanded a recount, and we're still fighting with Carrots. But I will tell you, we've come to a conclusion. Carrots. I'm sorry to tell you, the result did not change. That's too bad for Carrots."

The practice of sending a turkey to a farm became the norm under President Ronald Reagan. George H.W. Bush established the annual turkey pardon tradition in 1989 by sparing a 50-pound (23-kilogram) bird as animal rights activists picketed nearby.

Republicans sue to stop Wisconsin vote certification

MADISON, Wis. (AP)—Republicans filed a lawsuit Tuesday asking the Wisconsin Supreme Court to block certification of the presidential election results even as a recount over President-elect Joe Biden's win over President Donald Trump is ongoing.

The lawsuit echoes many of the same arguments Trump is making in trying, unsuccessfully, to have tens of thousands of ballots discounted during the recount. It also seeks to give the power to name presidential electors to the Republican-controlled Legislature.

Wisconsin state law allows the political parties to pick electors, which was done in October. Once the election results are certified, which is scheduled to be done Dec. 1, those pre-determined electors will cast their ballots for the winner on Dec. 14.

"The litigation filed this afternoon seeks to disenfranchise every Wisconsinite who voted in this year's presidential election," said Democratic Attorney General Josh Kaul. "The Wisconsin Department of Justice will ensure that Wisconsin's presidential electors are selected based on the will of the more than 3 million Wisconsin voters who cast a ballot."

The lawsuit also rehashes a claim that a federal court rejected in September that Facebook CEO Mark Zuckerberg tried to "illegally circumvent Wisconsin absentee voting laws" through grants awarded by a nonprofit center he funds.

At least 10 cases have been filed across the country seeking to halt certification in parts or all of key battleground states, including lawsuits brought by the Trump campaign in Michigan and Pennsylvania. So far none have been successful.

Wisconsin's election results are scheduled to be certified Dec. 1.

The Wisconsin lawsuit was filed by attorney Erick Kaardal, a former Minnesota Republican Party official who also represented rapper Kanye West in his unsuccessful lawsuit attempting to get on the ballot in Wisconsin. Kaardal represents a conservative group called the Wisconsin Voters Alliance and a host of Republican voters.

Kaardal also filed an unsuccessful federal lawsuit in Wisconsin that attempted to block \$6.3 million from being awarded to five heavily Democratic cities from the nonprofit Center for Technology and Civic Life, which is primarily funded by Zuckerberg and his wife. A judge tossed the lawsuit that argued the money amounted to bribery to bolster Democratic turnout in Green Bay, Kenosha, Madison, Milwaukee and Racine.

Many of the same arguments alleging the money was illegally awarded and therefore the election results should be nullified are being made in the new lawsuit in state court.

Other claims mirror those by Trump's campaign. Those claims allege absentee ballots should not have been counted where election officials filled in missing information on the certification envelope that contains the ballot and that voters who identified as "indefinitely confined" were lying to avoid the state's photo ID law.

The Wisconsin Elections Commission advises clerks that they can fill in missing information on the ballot envelopes, such as the address of a witness. That's been the practice for years, and it's never been challenged.

The Wisconsin Supreme Court this spring affirmed the state elections commission's guidance that it's up to each voter to decide whether they are indefinitely confined. More than 215,000 voters this year said they were confined, which allows them to cast a ballot without having to present a photo ID. The lawsuit says more than 96,000 self-identified confined voters should not count.

Biden won Wisconsin by 20,608 votes, but the lawsuit claims that more than 156,000 ballots should be tossed out.

The lawsuit alleges that more than 14,000 ballots "requested in the name of a registered Republican by someone other than that person" were cast and that more than 12,000 "Republican ballots" were returned but not counted. People do not register to vote by political party in Wisconsin so it is impossible to know how many Republicans or Democrats requested absentee ballots.


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Asia

Lunar mission is latest milestone in China's space ambitions

WENCHANG, China (AP)—China's latest trip to the moon is another milestone in the Asian powerhouse's slow but steady ascent to the stars.

China became the third country to put a person into orbit 17 years ago and the first to land on the far side of the moon in 2019. Future ambitions include a permanent space station and putting people back on the moon more than 50 years after the U.S. did.

But even before the latest lunar mission lifted off before dawn Tuesday, a top program official maintained that China isn't competing with anyone.

"China will set its development goals in the space industry based on its own considerations of science and engineering technology," Pei Zhaoyu, deputy director of the Lunar Exploration and Space Engineering Center at the China National Space Administration, told reporters hours before the Chang'e 5 mission was launched.

"We do not place rivals (before us) when setting those goals," Pei said.

Whether that is true or not is debatable. China has a national plan aimed at joining the United States, Europe and Japan in the top ranks of technology producers, and the space program has been a ma-



A Long March-5 rocket sits on the launch pad at the Wenchang Space Launch Center in Wenchang in southern China's Hainan Province, early Tuesday, Nov. 24, 2020.

major component of that. It also is a source of national pride to lift the reputation of the ruling Communist Party.

What's clear is that China's cautious, incremental approach has racked up success after success since it first put a person in space in 2003, joining the former Soviet Union

and the United States. That has been followed by more crewed missions, the launch of a space lab, the placing of a rover on the moon's relatively unexplored far side and, this year, an operation to land on Mars.

The Chang'e 5 mission, if successful, would be the first time moon rocks and debris

are brought to Earth since a 1976 Soviet mission. The four modules of the spacecraft blasted off atop a massive Long March-5Y rocket from the Wenchang launch center on Hainan island.

The mission's main task is to drill 2 meters (about 7 feet) into the moon's surface and scoop up about 2 kilograms (4.4 pounds) of rocks and other debris. The lander will

deposit them in an ascender. A return capsule will deliver them back to Earth, landing on the grasslands of the Inner Mongolia region in mid-December.

"Pulling off the Chang'e 5 mission would be an impressive feat for any nation," said Florida-based expert Stephen Clark of the publication Spaceflight Now.

China prides itself on ar-

iving at this point largely through its own efforts, although Russia helped early on with astronaut training and China's crewed Shenzhou space capsule is based on Russia's Soyuz.

While there has been collaboration with some other nations, notably those belonging to the European Space Agency, which has provided tracking support for Chinese missions, the United States isn't one of them.

U.S. law requires Congressional approval for cooperation between NASA and China's military-linked program. Ongoing political and economic disputes, notably accusations that China steals or compels the transfer of sensitive trade secrets, appear to dim the prospects for closer ties.

China's space program has at times been seen as recreating achievements attained years ago by others, primarily the U.S. and the former Soviet Union. Even China's permanent space station, now under construction, is partly a response to its exclusion from the International Space Station, mainly at the insistence of the U.S.

Other countries are also forging ahead, underscored by the dramatic landing of America's Curiosity Mars rover in 2012 and the return to Earth next month of Japan's explorer Hayabusa2 with samples collected from the asteroid Ryugu.

Taiwan's leader launches production of domestically made sub

KAOHSIUNG, Taiwan (AP)—Taiwan's president inaugurated the production of domestically made submarines Tuesday in the southern city of Kaohsiung, in a step forward for the island's defense strategy at a time of elevated tensions with China.

"This submarine is an important part of allowing our navy to develop asymmetric warfare and to intimidate and block enemy ships from surrounding Taiwan's main island," said President Tsai Ing-wen. "Now, with the construction of the submarine to its future commission, we will certainly let the world know our persistence in safeguarding our sovereignty."

Tsai has made boosting Taiwan's indigenous defense capacity a central pillar of her defense policy. Recently, she relaunched the military aviation industry with the production of new trainer jets and has pushed for the development of more sophisticated systems by utilizing the island's high-tech industries.

At the same time, she has gained approval from the U.S.

for the purchase of billions of dollars in weapons, including upgraded F-16 fighter jets, armed drones, rocket systems and Harpoon missiles capable of hitting both ships and land targets.

China regards Taiwan as a breakaway province that is part of its territory and has been upping its threats to bring the island under control by force as economic and political enticements bear little fruit. China has stepped up military exercises towards Taiwan this year, flying fighter jets and reconnaissance planes on an almost daily basis toward the island of 24 million people, which lies 160 kilometers (100 miles) off China's southeast coast across the Taiwan Strait.

Taiwan turned to the expensive and time-consuming task of building its own submarines after Beijing has successfully prevented it from purchasing such craft from abroad in recent years through the use of economic and diplomatic threats.

Only a handful of countries around the world are capable

of manufacturing submarines for modern warfare and Taiwan's move toward that step has taken years. The Taiwanese subs' designs have reportedly drawn on foreign expertise, despite the obstacles thrown up by China.

CSBC Corp., which is Taiwan's largest ship builder and is partially government owned, was awarded a contract to design and build the subs in 2017, in partnership with arms developer National Chung-Shan Institute of Science and Technology.

Plans call for the building of eight indigenous submarines at an estimated cost of more than \$16 billion, with the first one to be completed by 2024.

The project has already faced criticism over its cost. The design phase itself was estimated to cost around 3 billion Taiwanese dollars (\$100 million).

The submarine has been in the design stage for four years, overcoming all sorts of difficulties that could not be revealed to the public, CSBC's chairman, Cheng Wen-lon, said Tuesday.

China, Japan to cooperate in reviving virus-hit economies

TOKYO (AP)—The foreign ministers of Japan and China agreed Tuesday to cooperate in fighting the coronavirus and reviving their pandemic-hit economies, while trying to avoid actions that provoke tensions over disputed islands in the East China Sea.

Chinese Foreign Minister Wang Yi, who arrived in Tokyo on Tuesday, and his Japanese counterpart, Toshimitsu Motegi, also agreed to resume business travel between the world's No. 2 and No. 3 economies through a "business track" program that will allow visitors to engage in limited activities during their 14-day quarantine periods. Japan recently launched such arrangements with Singapore, South Korea and Vietnam.

The two countries are to restart business travel by the end of this month, even though Japan is currently grappling with a resurgence of coronavirus infections as the government struggles to balance disease prevention and eco-

nomics health.

"I expect the agreement will contribute to energizing the economy between Japan and China and serve to promote mutual understanding," Motegi said. He said stable Japan-China relations are crucial not only for the two countries but also for the region.

Chinese nationals topped the number of foreign visitors in Japan before the pandemic.

Relations between the two countries have been strained over territorial disputes and wartime history. But ties have improved in recent years while China's trade dispute with the U.S. has escalated. Japan, a key U.S. ally, sees China as a crucial trading partner and faces the challenge of balancing its relations with both nations.

On Tuesday, Japan and China agreed to work together on climate change, energy conservation, healthcare and digital commerce as part of their economic cooperation. They agreed to support a rule-based multina-

tional trade system, Wang said.

Motegi and Wang also discussed their dispute over Japanese-controlled East China Sea islands which Japan calls Senkaku and China calls Diaoyu, and agreed to try not to escalate tensions. The two sides will establish a hotline between their militaries by the end of December to "improve communication and safety," Wang said.

"China hopes that with joint efforts from both sides, we can build the East China Sea into a sea of peace, friendship and cooperation. This serves the two people's fundamental and long-term interests," Wang said.

Still, they insisted on their rival territorial claims. Motegi said he reiterated Japan's position and (asterisk)strongly urged China to take a forward-looking action." Wang defended China's coast guard patrols in the area. "We have a clear position in this regard. We will certainly continue to safeguard our sovereignty," he said.

World

Ethiopians fleeing war find little relief

UMM RAKOUBA, Sudan (AP)—The baby was born on the run from war. Her first bath was in a puddle. Now she cries all night in a country that is not her own.

Wrapped in borrowed clothing, the child is one of the newest and most fragile refugees among more than 40,000 who have fled the Ethiopian government's offensive in the defiant Tigray region.

They have hurried into Sudan, often under gunfire, sometimes so quickly they had to leave family behind. There is not enough to feed them in this remote area, and very little shelter. Some drink from the river that separates the countries, and more cross it every day.

"We walked in the desert.

We slept in the desert," said one refugee, Blaines Alfao Eileen, who is eight months pregnant and has befriended Lemlem Haylo Rada, the mother of the newborn. One woman is ethnic Tigrayan, the other ethnic Amhara. The conflict could have turned them against each other, but motherhood intervened.

That, and tragedy. "I do not know where my husband is and whether he's alive," Eileen said.

Her journey took four days. "I slept on this scarf that I am holding," she said, "and I would wake up and do it again."

Almost half the refugees are children under 18. Around 700 women are currently pregnant, the United Nations says.

At least nine have given birth in Sudan.

It has been three weeks since Ethiopian Prime Minister Abiy Ahmed sent federal troops into Tigray after accusing the region's forces of attacking a military base. Abiy's government and the regional one each view the other as illegitimate, and the Nobel Peace Prize-winning prime minister on Sunday warned that a final assault to take Tigray's capital

is imminent.

Civilians are caught in the middle of what some experts describe as a conflict akin to an inter-state war, so heavily armed is each side.

Many people barely know why they had to flee. Now, people of all classes, from bankers to subsistence farmers, spend up to two weeks in so-called transit centers, waiting in makeshift shelters in arid, almost treeless surround-

ings just over the border in Sudan; it used to be just two or three days.

Some refugees have little to protect them from the heat and sun and curl under possessions as meager as umbrellas. Men have begun weaving dried grass into temporary homes.

COVID-19 could be passing through the crowds, but the people's focus is elsewhere. More wear crosses around their necks than face masks.

The local Sudanese villagers have been praised for their generosity, but they have

little to give.

More permanent camps for the refugees are a drive of several hours away, and there is sometimes not even enough fuel to transport them there. The threat of hostilities remains while they wait so close to the border.

Some overworked humanitarians have used the bare floor of a local building as a makeshift hospital, treating wounds that refugees say were inflicted with machetes as Ethiopia's long pent-up ethnic tensions were unleashed.

UK eases restrictions so families can gather over Christmas

LONDON (AP)—British authorities gave the green light Tuesday to holiday reunions, relaxing restrictions on social mixing over Christmas and offering arriving international travelers a way to cut short quarantine if they test negative for COVID-19.

The U.K. government and administrations in Scotland, Wales and Northern Ireland struck a deal that will ease limits on travel and socializing over the festive period so that friends and families can get together. Over the five days between Dec. 23 and 27, up to three households can form a "Christmas bubble" and members can move freely between them. Those travelling to and from Northern Ireland will be permitted to travel for an additional day either side.

People are currently barred from visiting members of other households in much of the U.K., and there are limits on travel to high-infection areas.

Cabinet minister Michael Gove said the agreement "will offer hope for families and friends who have made many sacrifices over this difficult year."

Government scientific advisers have signed off on the holiday plan, though scientists have warned it will likely lead to an increase in coronavirus infections.

Paul Hunter, a professor in medicine at the University of East Anglia, noted that the easing will be taking place when schools will be closed, which should dampen down on transmissions.

"Christmas, whether or not we celebrate the day as a religious festival, may be what

we need to make it through the rest of winter," he said.

In a boost to holiday travel, the 14-day quarantine requirement for travelers arriving in England from most destinations will be reduced to as little as five days if they test negative for COVID-19.

Under the new rules, passengers from places not on the government's travel corridor list can reduce the 14-day quarantine period by paying for a test from a private firm on or after Day 5 of their arrival at a potential cost of around 100 pounds (\$133). Results normally take a day or two.

"Our new testing strategy will allow us to travel more freely, see loved ones and drive international business," Transport Secretary Grant Shapps said. "By giving people the choice to test on Day 5, we are also supporting the travel industry as it continues to rebuild out of the pandemic."

The change, which takes effect Dec. 15, has been long-awaited by the travel industry, one of the worst-hit sectors during the pandemic. The industry hopes it will spur British families to go on holiday over the Christmas break, especially if children won't have to miss school upon their return.

The change only applies in England. Travelers arriving in Northern Ireland, Scotland and Wales must continue to self-isolate for 14 days.

The Christmas plan will allow people to travel anywhere in the U.K. to meet with loved ones in private homes, outdoors or in places of worship—though not in pubs and restaurants.



*During this time of pandemic,
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Environment

“While coral reefs here in the CNMI remain in fair condition, they are vulnerable and declining.”

This is according to the recently released status report on the U.S. Coral Reefs by the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration’s Coral Reef Conservation Program, where, along with Hawaii, American Samoa, Guam, and the Pacific Remote Islands, NOAA has found that frequent and severe heat stress caused by the rapidly changing climate have been causing coral bleaching and deaths to happen in the CNMI reefs.

It’s not hard to see that corals on the island are under threat. A swim, snorkel, or a dive is all it takes to get close to corals and really observe how they are slowly dying.

Thankfully, for the CNMI, “human connections to coral reefs are good”—with NOAA noting that residents, aware of these threats, support coral reef management and demonstrate high engagement in behaviors that are aligned with environmental protection.

People on the island are working together to help save our corals.

Last month, *Saipan Tribune* featured and joined in the pilot training of students for the citizen science program on coral protection, Eyes of the Reef Marianas, organized by the Division of Coastal Resources Management of the Bureau of Environmental and Coastal Quality. Today, we highlight the Saipan Coral Nursery Project being piloted by the Johnston Applied Marine Sciences.

The Saipan Pilot Coral Nursery

“Since 2013, the CNMI coral reefs have experienced several thermal stress events where the seawater temperatures got so hot that the corals got stressed out and many of them died. Based on a study that we conducted, over 60% of corals were lost on Saipan’s shallow reefs from 2012 to 2018.”

According to Dr. Lyza Johnston, coral reef ecologist and founder of the Johnston Applied Marine Sciences, based in the CNMI, the Saipan Pilot Coral Nursery was established in 2019 to give local resource managers a way to help restore the coral reefs after these losses.

The coral culturing and restoration project was funded by NOAA and is being implemented by Johnston Applied Marine Sciences, with the CNMI Division of Fish and Wildlife and the Division



JOHNSTON APPLIED MARINE SCIENCES

Johnston Applied Marine Sciences intern Logan Mister scuba diving at the Saipan Pilot Coral Nursery. The project is funded by the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, and is being implemented by Johnston Applied Marine Sciences, with the CNMI Division of Fish and Wildlife and the Division of Coastal Resources Management, to help restore corals in the CNMI.

SAVING CORALS:

Coral culture and restoration through the Saipan Pilot Coral Nursery

By IVA MAURIN

iva_maurin@saipantribune.com
CORRESPONDENT

of Coastal Resources Management.

The project features nursery trees where coral fragments are placed to grow further. The nursery is located in the Saipan lagoon, within the Managaha Marine Conservation Area.

“We currently have 20 ‘tree’ structures in the nursery which can hold up to 100 corals each. The trees have a 5-inch PVC spine and ten fiberglass arms. The coral fragments are secured and hung from the arms using monofilament fishing line, much like ornaments on a Christmas tree.”

Johnston states that the trees are ideal for growing branching corals, and that they will also soon be adding table structures to the nursery, in order to grow boulder corals.

“We currently have nine species of coral growing in the nursery. We generally collect several small fragments from wild donor, or parent, colonies (no more than 10% of the colony) and bring them to the nursery to grow and propagating within the nursery.”

The said strategy, Johnston affirms, minimizes the impacts to wild donor colonies.

“So far, we have collected from over 50 donor colonies at 12 sites located all around Saipan. The parent colonies

are monitored after collection and so far, the vast majority (over 99%) have recovered fully from the collection process,” she added.

As for the coral colonies that will grow from the nursery, they will be planted back out to the degraded reef sites around Saipan where coral covers were found to have declined due to bleaching, typhoons, or other disturbances.

What can the community do to help?

Corals and coral reefs are extremely vital in protecting islands like the CNMI—and given the threat they are facing in terms of bleaching and mortality, we need to help them recover.

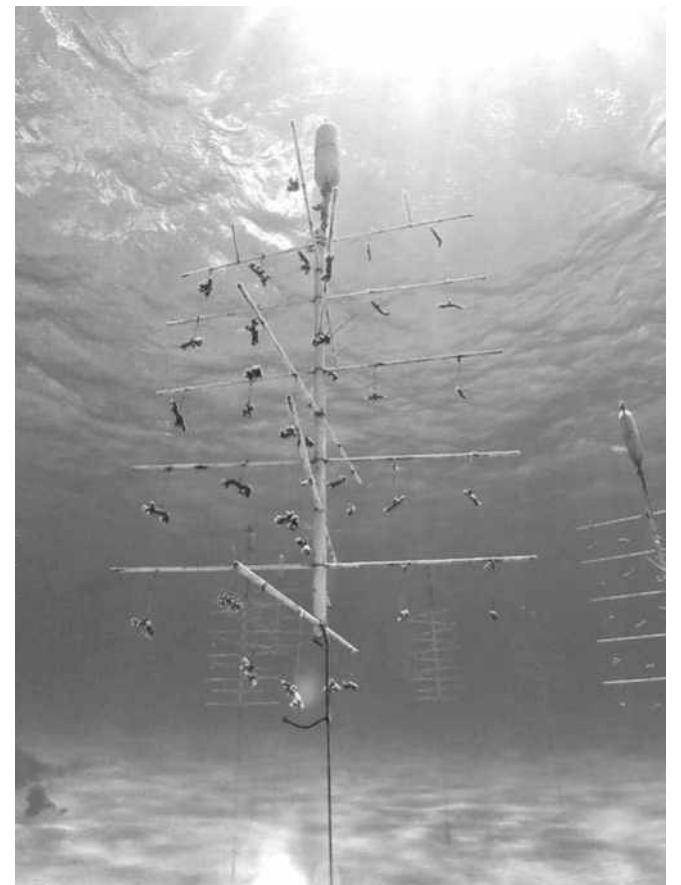
“Coral reefs are very important to island communities because they provide food and habitat for many important fisheries species, which, in turn, provide income and sustenance to the community; they protect coastlines from damaging waves, reducing coastal erosion and flooding; and they provide tourism and recreation opportunities.”

As local efforts, such as the Coral Nursery Project and the Eyes of the Reef, are helpful in protecting and restoring the islands coral

reefs, with climate change as a major factor in the bleaching, NOAA also stresses the need to cut carbon emissions, and transition from fossil fuels to renewable sources of energy.

And for us, residents, we too can help, even in small ways. Many of our actions on land affect the nearshore coral reefs, and Johnston shares the following easy-to-follow guidelines that we all can do to keep coral reefs healthy:

1. Dispose of waste properly. Trash and other waste



JOHNSTON APPLIED MARINE SCIENCES

One of the “coral trees” at the Saipan Pilot Coral Nursery, established in 2019, to give local resource managers a way to help restore the coral reefs after the losses due to thermal stresses on Saipan’s shallow reefs from 2012 to 2018. The project is funded by the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, and is being implemented by Johnston Applied Marine Sciences, with the CNMI Division of Fish and Wildlife and the Division of Coastal Resources Management.

products such as motor oil, cooking oil, and other toxic chemicals, if left or dumped on the ground, can be blown or washed into the ocean and negatively impact coral reef ecosystems. Volunteer for beach cleanups or other conservation initiatives.

2. When snorkeling or diving, don’t step on, kick, or touch corals or other organisms and try not to stir up sediments. Also, choose “reef-friendly” sunscreens whenever possible.

3. When boating, don’t drive over shallow areas of seagrass or coral reef; stirred up sediments and physical contact with the bottom will

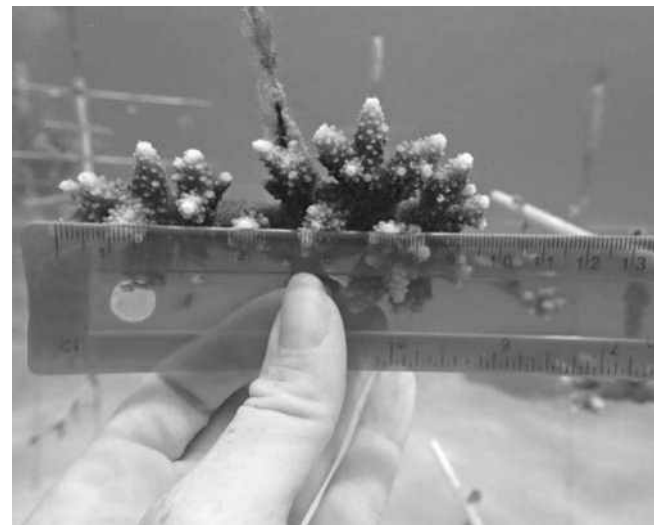
harm coral reef ecosystems. Also, try not to anchor on corals or seagrasses.

4. Plant a tree or a rain garden! Coastal erosion leads to sediments and other pollutants being washed out into the ocean. Vegetation, including trees and wetland plants, help to reduce erosion and filter sediments and other pollutants from the water before it reaches the sea.

5. Fish and buy fish responsibly. Coral reefs need herbivores, such as parrotfish, to eat fast growing algae (i.e., seaweed) that otherwise would overgrow corals and reduce habitat quality for coral juveniles and other animals. Follow all local fishing regulations and recommendations and only take what you need.

The Saipan Coral Nursery Project will continue indefinitely, provided funding is secured. Johnston also disclosed that the CNMI Division of Coastal Resources Management will be establishing a second nursery in the coming year, and that with other agencies and non-government organizations, a coral reef restoration plan is being developed for the CNMI.

For more information about the Coral Nursery, other coral projects, or in volunteering with the Johnston Applied Marine Sciences, please contact Kelsey McClellan at kmccllellan@jams-saipan.com.



JOHNSTON APPLIED MARINE SCIENCES

Coral growth being measured at the Saipan Pilot Coral Nursery. The project is funded by the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, and is being implemented by Johnston Applied Marine Sciences, with the CNMI Division of Fish and Wildlife and the Division of Coastal Resources Management, to help restore corals in the CNMI.

Life & Style

A 'Black Parade' Grammys: Beyoncé leads with 9 nominations

NEW YORK (AP)—Beyoncé is bringing her Black parade to the Grammys: The pop star's anthem about Black

Taylor Swift 'folklore' concert film coming to Disney+

NEW YORK (AP) — A concert film featuring Taylor Swift performing songs from her new album is coming to Disney+.

The singer announced Tuesday that "folklore: the long pond studio sessions" will premiere on the streaming platform on Wednesday.

The concert film will include guest appearances from Jack Antonoff, Aar-

on Dessner and Bon Iver — acts who all appear on Swift's "folklore" album. In the film, Swift will reveal stories and secrets behind the 17 songs on the album, which topped the Billboard 200 albums chart this year.

Swift filmed "folklore: the long pond studio sessions" in upstate New York in September. The singer also directed the concert film.

pride scored multiple nominations Tuesday, making her the leading contender with nine nominations.

Beyoncé picked up song and record of the year bids with "Black Parade," which she released on Juneteenth, the holiday that commemorates when the last enslaved African Americans learned they were free. The song, which reached the Top 40 on the pop charts, is also nominated for best R&B song and best R&B performance.

Beyoncé's "Black Is King" film that highlighted Black art, music, history and fashion is up for best music film while "Brown Skin Girl," a song dedicated to dark- and brown-skinned women, is nominated

for best music video. The singer also earned three nominations for her slick guest appearance on Megan Thee Stallion's No. 1 hit "Savage."

A winner of 24 Grammys, Beyoncé becomes the second-most nominated act in the history of the awards show with 79 nominations.

Beyoncé is only behind her husband Jay-Z and Quincy Jones, who have both earned 80 nominations each. Jay-Z picked up three nominations this year for his contributions to Beyoncé's songs: He co-wrote "Black Parade" and "Savage," thus earning nominations for



Knowles

song of the year, best R&B song and best rap song. Jay-Z has won 22 Grammys throughout this career.

Beyoncé's domination this year came as a surprise since the singer did not release a new album. Other surprises, well snubs, include pop star The Weeknd being completely shut out and earning zero nominations despite having a No. 1 album, multiple hit singles and winning the coveted Super Bowl halftime performance slot. Luke Combs, who dominated the country charts and set records on streaming services this year,

was also surprisingly shut out of nominations.

Instead, multiple nominations went to Taylor Swift, Dua Lipa and Roddy Ricch, who each earned six nominations and followed Beyoncé as the second-most nominated acts.

Lipa, who won two Grammys last year, earned bids for album of the year with "Future Nostalgia" as well as song and record of the year for her hit "Don't Start Now." Swift, whose last two albums didn't garner nominations for album of the year, is competing for the top prize with her surprise album "folklore." If she wins, she would become the first artist to win album of the year three times.

Obama memoir sells a record 1.7 million copies in first week

Former President Barack Obama's "A Promised Land" sold more than 1.7 million copies in North America in its first week, roughly equal to the combined first week sales of memoirs by



Obama

his two immediate predecessors and among the highest ever for a nonfiction book.

Crown announced Tuesday that it had increased its initial print run from 3.4 million copies to 4.3 million. Sales also include audio and digital books.

"A Promised Land," the first of two planned volumes, was published Nov. 17 and sold nearly 890,000 copies just in its first day. Among former White House residents, only Obama's wife Michelle approaches his

popularity as a writer. Her "Becoming," published in 2018, has sold more than 10 million copies worldwide and is currently in the top 20 on Amazon.com.

George W. Bush's "Decision Points" sold 775,000 copies its first week and Bill Clinton's "My Life" topped 1 million in eight days. The two presidential memoirs have now each sold between 3.5 and 4 million copies, totals that Obama's book should easily surpass.

No nonfiction comes close to the pace set by J.K. Rowling's "Harry Potter and the Deathly Hallows," which in 2007 sold more than 8 million copies in its first 24 hours. (AP)

The Weeknd criticizes Grammys over nominations snub

LOS ANGELES (AP)—The Weeknd angrily slammed the Grammy Awards, calling them "corrupt" after the pop star walked away with zero nominations despite having multiple hits this year.

The three-time Grammy winner criticized the Recording Academy on Tuesday after he was severely snubbed despite having one of the year's biggest albums with "After Hours" and being tapped as the Super Bowl halftime headline performer. He also topped the Billboard Hot 100 chart with "Blinding Lights" and "Heartless."

"The Grammys remain corrupt," the singer said on Twitter. "You owe me, my fans and the industry transparency."

The harsh words come less than a year after the Recording Academy's ousted CEO ac-

cused the group that determines nominations in the top categories of having conflicts of interest and not engaging in a transparent selection process.

Harvey Mason Jr., the Recording Academy's interim president and CEO, spoke earlier about whether he was surprised the Weeknd didn't earn a single nomination. He said it's hard to predict the voters' decisions.

"You know, there's so many nominations and there's only so many slots, it's really tough to predict what the voters are going to vote for in any given year," he told The Associated Press. "I try not to be too surprised."

After the Weeknd called out the academy, Mason Jr. re-



The Weeknd

leased a statement explaining some that "unfortunately, every year, there are fewer nominations than the number of deserving artists."

"We understand that The Weeknd is disappointed at not being nominated. I was surprised and can empathize with what he's feeling," Mason Jr. said.

The Weeknd was shut out from being a Grammy nominee along with Luke Combs, who set records on streaming services and dominated the country charts. Morgan Wallen also had a successful year in country music, but he came away empty.

A group of young R&B female acts moving the needle

also missed out on nominations, including Summer Walker, Teyana Taylor and Kehlani. Late rapper Juice WRLD, Brandy and Chris Brown were also snubbed.

Justin Bieber earned four nominations, but the singer also criticized the Grammys decision-making as well. He said music from his fifth studio album "Changes" was wrongly viewed as a pop album, rather than an R&B project.

Bieber gave thanks saying he was "flattered" for being acknowledged but thought being left out of the R&B category was a mistake.

"I set out to make an R&B album," he wrote on Instagram. "'Changes' was and is an R&B album. It is not being acknowledged as an R&B album, which is very strange to me."

Letters from elderly dad are only thinly veiled criticisms

DEAR ABBY: I could use some advice on the best response to my 89-year-old father's letters. He cleverly inserts insults into them without writing anything for which he could be criticized.

For example, he has always talked about how he hates fat people. I am very overweight. My father sends me letters talking about how fit and trim another relative is who had just visited. That's all he says about them, and it's all he writes to me about. I can certainly read between the lines.

This isn't a one-time thing, just one example. I know my father will never change. He was abusive to me, my siblings and my mother. I see these letters as another way for him to continue his abuse, so I ignore them. Not engaging is my way of taking the high road. Extended family and friends bug me to talk with him about it, but I have never had a good experience with talking to my father.

I would have hoped that being closer to death would cause him to reconsider his interactions with his children, but he just isn't able to do so. Could you recommend a response other than silence?

READING INTO IT IN ILLINOIS

DEAR READING INTO IT: As a matter of fact, I can. Write him back and say something like this:

"Dear Dad, you may have been wondering why I don't

respond to your letters. They contain nothing more than comparisons to other relatives who are skinnier and more fit than I am, and frankly, I find them painful to read. I am not writing this as a criticism of you, but only so you will understand my silence.

"Sincerely,

"Your Daughter 'Judy'"

You do not have to talk to him. This should get your message across.

DEAR ABBY: I have a friend who is divorced and struggling financially, but doesn't work other than sporadic pet-sitting jobs. I enjoy her company and we have a lot in common, but when we go on outings together, she expects me to drive and pay for her drinks and food if she doesn't have enough money. She doesn't own a credit card.

I'm starting to feel resentful and like I'm being taken advantage of. She thanks me sometimes, but I think she feels that because I am financially comfortable and she isn't, I should be a good friend and help her out. I really want to discuss the situation with her, but I am afraid of coming across as stingy and uncaring. What are your thoughts?

USED IN ALABAMA

DEAR USED: I have to take issue with your signature.

DEAR ABBY

By ABIGAIL VAN BUREN
UNIVERSAL PRESS SYNDICATE

Dear Abby is written by Abigail Van Buren, also known as Jeanne Phillips, and was founded by her mother, Pauline Phillips. Contact Dear Abby at www.DearAbby.com or P.O. Box 69440, Los Angeles, CA 90069.



You are not being used; you have been ALLOWING yourself to be used. It would be neither stingy nor uncaring to ask before making a date to go out together whether she has the money to pay her way. If the answer is no, suggest doing something that doesn't involve money or that's within her budget—unless you want to treat her. But treating her should not be expected, any more than any other gift would be.

Abby shares more than 100 of her favorite recipes in two booklets: "Abby's Favorite Recipes" and "More Favorite Recipes by Dear Abby." Send your name and mailing address, plus check or money order for \$16 (U.S. funds) to: Dear Abby, Cookbooklet Set, P.O. Box 447, Mount Morris, IL 61054-0447. (Shipping and handling are included in the price.)

Pastimes

Calvin and Hobbes

By Bill Waterson



Garfield®

By Jim Davis



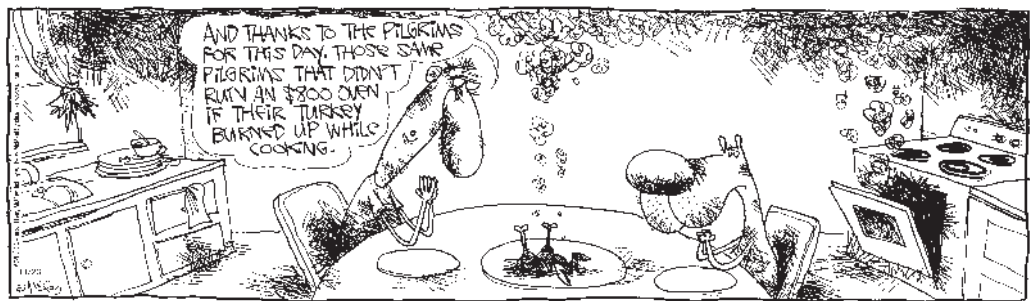
Adam@home

By Bryan Basset



The Duplex

By Glenn McCoy



CROSSWORD By Eugene Sheffer

ACROSS

1 Basil or thyme

5 Strike callers

9 French vineyard

12 Writer James

13 Long story

14 Brick carrier

15 Ricki Lake film of 1988

17 I love (Lat.)

18 Confuses

19 Macho type

21 Tagged player

22 Scale

24 Opposite of "fer"

27 Lanka lead-in

28 Grecian vessels

31 Standard

32 Sandwich meat

33 Blackbird

34 Trudge

36 Lamb's dam

37 Deli loaves

38 Neighbor of Tibet

40 You and I

41 Firm belief

43 Part of USSR

47 Kiev's land (Abbr.)

48 "Vanity Fair" author

51 Historic time

52 Afghanistan's — Bora region

53 Jeopardize

54 Non-clerical

55 Detail

56 Noble Italian family

DOWN

1 "Funny!"

2 "Zounds!"

3 Tara of "Sharknado"

4 Song-writer Irving

5 Priority Mail org.

6 Scratch the surface

7 Links org.

8 Greet

9 Light-weight fabric

10 "Arrivederci —"

11 Japanese noodle

16 Collection

20 Outback bird

22 Swim stroke

23 Gimlet garnish

24 PC program

25 Lass

26 Dark, metallic color

27 The Mets' old home

29 Away from SSW

30 Bro's sib

35 Rep.'s rival

37 Esteem

39 Singer LaBelle

40 Stir-fry pan

41 Hamilton-Burr event

42 Gumbo veggie

43 Con job

44 Eye part

45 Sunrise direction

46 Youngster

49 Stolen

50 "— you serious?"

Solution time: 24 mins.

P	O	L	E	P	O	T	S	P	A	R
A	M	E	N	R	U	E	M	A	C	H
P	A	N	T	H	E	R	S	O	N	C
A	R	A	R	A	T	L	A	K	O	T
E	T	E	A	V	E	R				
A	L	P	E	N	D	E	R	A	S	E
N	E	A	-	D	O	I	S	M	E	W
N	O	N	O	S	M	O	O	A	X	E
C	O	A	L	P	B	S				
R	W	A	N	D	A	K	O	A	L	A
S	A	K	I	P	A	N	F	I	S	T
T	R	E	E	S	R	O	M	A	T	A
U	S	S	R	E	M	T	A	M	A	T

CELEBRITIES BORN ON THIS DAY: Peter Facinelli, 47; Garcelle Beauvais, 54; Tina Turner, 81; Rich Little, 82.

Happy Birthday: A selective approach to the information offered to you this year will be critical. Stay focused on what's simple, feasible and within your budget. Refuse to let anyone railroad you into something that will take away from your interests. Put a diligent health regimen in place. Fitness, diet and a positive lifestyle will build courage and strength of character. Your numbers are 4, 17, 23, 31, 36, 40, 43.

ARIES (March 21-April 19): Pay closer attention to contracts, money matters and partnerships. Be aggressive when it comes to the vocal contributions you make, but don't let anger or frustration take over. Remaining calm and offering sound suggestions will help you get ahead. ★★★

TAURUS (April 20-May 20): You are overdue for a change. Look through your wardrobe, and consider your current appeal and how you like to present yourself to the world. An opportunity to ask someone to repay a favor will help you professionally and personally. ★★★

GEMINI (May 21-June 20): Take care of your responsibilities. If you rely on someone, you'll be disappointed. Refrain from sharing too much information or presenting something you are working on prematurely. Put your energy into what counts and matters to you most. ★★★★★

CANCER (June 21-July 22): Get involved in something you care about, and make a difference. Refuse to let anyone bait you

into an argument. You'll accomplish the most if you are dedicated and determined to reach your goal. Don't be afraid to do things differently. ★★

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22): Give others the same freedom you want in return. Don't waste time trying to change someone's mind. Spend your time focusing on self-improvement. A change someone makes may not be to your liking, but it will be beneficial in the end. ★★★★★

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22): Sort through what you need and want. A change of plans will give you the chance to explore different lifestyles. Do your best to learn more, and you will discover you have more options than you realize. Love and romance are favored. ★★★

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 22): Pay close attention to your relationships. Don't start something you cannot finish. Uncertainty will prevail if you send mixed messages. A physical outlet will help clear your mind. A change will disrupt finances or prompt legal matters. ★★★

SCORPIO (Oct. 23-Nov. 21): Pay closer attention to your responsibilities. Don't leave anything undone or to chance. A risk will cause uncertainty that can lead to problems with a friend or colleague. Use your intellect and intuition, and you'll find the best solution. ★★★

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21): Improve your surroundings, and it will make a difference to your emotional well-being. How you live will impact your attitude and ability to forge ahead with confidence. Trust and believe in yourself, not what someone leads you to believe. ★★★★★

EUGENIA LAST

THE LAST WORD IN ASTROLOGY

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CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19): It's good to be passionate about something, but not when it comes between you and the success you are trying to achieve. Settle down and refuse to let temper, ego and frustration take over. You'll do best when you work alone. ★★

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18): Make plans that will help you take your best assets and turn them into something lucrative. Concentrate on what you enjoy doing and do well. Ignore negativity or those who don't believe in you. Do your own thing. ★★★★★

PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20): Mixed emotions will stand between you and what you want to accomplish. Be patient and focus on your objective, and doors will open. The help you need will appear. A joint venture will lead to victory. ★★★

Birthday Baby: You are demonstrative, active and competitive. You are playful and daring.

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SUDOKU

Conceptis Sudoku By Dave Green

2			3		4	1		6
		5						
6				9			2	
9								3
		7		6		9		
4								5
	7			8				4
						6		
1		8	2		3			7

Difficulty Level ★★★ 11/26
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Sudoku is a number-placing puzzle based on a 9x9 grid with several given numbers. The object is to place the numbers 1 to 9 in the empty squares so that each row, each column and each 3x3 box contains the same number only once. The difficulty level of the Conceptis Sudoku increases from Monday to Saturday.

Yesterday's Answer

6	2	4	1	9	5	7	8	3
1	9	7	8	3	2	6	4	5
5	3	8	4	6	7	9	1	2
7	4	9	2	1	3	5	6	8
2	8	1	6	5	9	4	3	7
3	6	5	7	8	4	1	2	9
9	5	6	3	2	1	8	7	4
4	1	2	5	7	8	3	9	6
8	7	3	9	4	6	2	5	1

WONDERWORD By DAVID OUELLET

HOW TO PLAY: All the words listed below appear in the puzzle — horizontally, vertically, diagonally and even backward. Find them, circle each letter of the word and strike it off the list. The leftover letters spell the WONDERWORD.

THANKSGIVING DINNER Solution: 10 letters

S	N	O	I	N	O	P	S	U	E	E	F	F	O	C
S	T	E	E	C	I	L	S	M	V	C	C	L	H	Y
T	L	P	V	K	W	I	M	R	N	I	U	C	R	P
O	A	F	O	O	T	B	A	L	L	N	A	A	A	I
R	S	G	B	T	T	C	Y	R	C	N	M	R	S	E
R	E	R	R	S	P	A	A	H	I	E	T	O	U	S
A	I	A	Y	A	T	G	T	P	S	Y	E	L	P	T
C	R	N	V	O	N	U	S	O	U	N	D	L	P	U
D	R	D	A	T	S	D	R	S	P	D	I	S	E	F
E	E	M	R	A	E	O	P	K	E	T	D	K	R	F
Z	B	A	G	M	A	S	H	A	E	L	E	I	S	I
A	N	E	A	S	A	V	O	R	Y	Y	P	E	N	N
L	A	E	T	R	E	S	S	E	D	I	E	P	W	G
G	R	E	E	N	B	E	A	N	S	D	A	L	A	S
C	C	O	R	N	B	R	E	A	D	R	I	N	K	S

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Apples, Bowls, Carve, Coffee, Cornbread, Cranberries, Creamed Spinach, Dessert, Dine, Drinks, Football, Garlic, Glazed Carrots, Grandma, Grandpa, Gravy, Green Beans, Lunch, Mash, Onions, Oven, Party, Pies, Pudding, Roast, Rolls, Rosemary, Sage, Salad, Salt, Sauce, Savory, Skin, Slice, Stuffing, Supper, Sweet Potato, Toast, Turkey, Yams
Yesterday's Answer: Interruption
Treasures 13 through 18 and 20 through 38 can be purchased online in time for the holidays at WonderWordBooks.com or call 1-900-642-6480.

STUMPED?

For answers to today's crossword, call 1-900-226-5955! 99¢ per minute, touch-tone/rotary phones. (18+ only.) A King Features service, NYC.

Teams plan, pray for Giannis free agency



NEW YORK—The longer Giannis Antetokounmpo allows his supermax contract extension offer to sit unsigned, the more optimistic teams will become about the possibility of prying the two-time reigning NBA MVP away from the Milwaukee Bucks in 2021 free agency, and a handful of likely suitors are already planning his exit strategy.

Antetokounmpo has pledged his loyalty to the Bucks, so long as they remain committed to (and capable of) building a championship roster around him. General manager Jon Horst bolstered Milwaukee's rotation, but not without some embarrassment. Whether or not Antetokounmpo signs his quarter-billion-dollar extension will tell us whether Horst and company did enough this off-season to earn his faith in their long-term viability.

It has to be of some concern that Antetokounmpo has yet to commit in the wake of Milwaukee's failed pursuit of Bogdan Bogdanovic, especially after Horst invested his first-round draft assets through 2027 in the acquisition of

All-Star guard Jrue Holiday. According to ESPN's Brian Windhorst, "the Bucks have gone from cautiously optimistic to cautiously confident" that Antetokounmpo will stay, whatever that means.

Antetokounmpo does seem like the sort of superstar who could spend his entire career in one location, but it is all speculation without a signature. While the Bucks are trying to move mountains in order to secure Antetokounmpo's extension, a number of teams have been operating as if that extension will never come.

Below are the five realistic landing spots if Antetokounmpo enters free agency.

LAKERS

Windhorst also suggested that Anthony Davis might be waiting on word from Antetokounmpo. Davis has yet to re-sign with the Los Angeles Lakers, if only because he is weighing his options on the nature of his max deal. One possibility is signing a two-year deal with a player option for the second season that would allow both Davis and LeBron James to enter free agency in 2021—and recruit Antetokounmpo to L.A.

Ingram, Adebayo agree to max contract extension

NEW ORLEANS (AP)—Restricted free agent Brandon Ingram has agreed to a five-year, \$158 million contract with the New Orleans Pelicans.

Ingram's agents, Jeff Schwartz and Jordan Gertler of Excel Sports Management, confirmed the deal on Tuesday to The Associated Press.

Ingram is the NBA's reigning most improved player after averaging a team-high 23.8 points in his first season with the Pelicans.

The 23-year-old Ingram, a 2016 second overall draft choice by the Los Angeles Lakers, was dealt to New Orleans during the 2019 off-season as part of a blockbuster trade that sent perennial All-Star Anthony Davis to the Lakers. New Orleans also received guards Lonzo Ball and Josh Hart, as well as multiple draft picks in that deal.

The 6-foot-7 Ingram this season developed into an effective and reliable scorer from the perimeter as well as on dribble drives. He shot a career best 39.1% from 3-point range but also routinely finished above the rim in the free-flowing, up-tempo offense the Pelicans ran last season under previous

coach Alvin Gentry.

Now Ingram will play for new coach Stan Van Gundy, who said shortly after his hiring that viewed Ingram and Pelicans 2019 top overall draft choice Zion Williamson "two of the most unique young guys in the entire league."

Meanwhile, Bam Adebayo and the Miami Heat agreed on a five-year extension that will be worth at least \$163 million.

It will be the richest contract in terms of total value in Heat history.

"This is an accomplishment I always wanted to get," Adebayo said. "Just being able to reach this milestone and being able to generationally change my family's life and also take care of the people around me, it's a big deal to me."

Adebayo will make \$5.1 million this season, the final year of his rookie contract. From there, the extension will kick in with a starting salary of somewhere around \$28.1 million for the 2021-22 season. And if he makes an All-NBA team or wins another top leaguewide honor this season, his annual salary would only rise more.



In this Aug. 20, 2020 file photo, Milwaukee Bucks forward Giannis Antetokounmpo (34) dunks against Orlando Magic forward Gary Clark (12) and Nikola Vucevic during the second half of an NBA first round playoff game in Lake Buena Vista, Fla.

quille O'Neal with Dwyane Wade in 2004 and recruited both James and Chris Bosh to South Beach six years later. Last year's signing of Jimmy Butler was supposed to be a stepping stone to the Heat's next super-team in 2021, and Riley's roster work helped them reach the Finals ahead of schedule.

The Heat hold 2021 team options on everyone they have signed since Butler, including Goran Dragic, Andre Iguodala, Meyers Leonard and Avery Bradley. They also let Jae Crowder and Derrick Jones Jr. walk in free agency for multi-year deals elsewhere, just to maintain the flexibility to sign Antetokounmpo next summer. They will have to get a lot more creative if they indeed plan to extend All-Star center Bam Adebayo this offseason, as has been reported, but Riley has worked that cap magic before, most recently with Butler.

They will pitch Antetokounmpo—famous for his work ethic—on the culture that spurred an underdog to this year's Finals and the notion that he would be the missing piece to Riley's next championship roster.

MAVERICKS

Dallas Mavericks owner Mark Cuban seemingly whiffs in free agency every year, even as he built a perennial 50-win team that brought a championship in 2011. Even when they did secure an agreement from DeAndre Jordan in 2015, the end result of an infamous fiasco was the same. It is a somewhat strange phenomenon for a franchise well known to take care of its stars and provide state-of-the-art facilities for the entire roster.

This year was no different for the Mavs, who were reportedly intent on adding a third star. Their eyes turn to 2021, when Cuban once again anticipates chasing a big fish to join the two he acquired by draft and trade.

His pitch to Antetokounmpo would be an intriguing one. In Luka Doncic and Kristaps Porzingis, the Mavs feature two of the best international players alive. By adding Antetokounmpo, the team on which Dirk Nowitzki paved the way for all three European stars would become the hub of global interest in the sport. (AP/NBC)

That seems wildly optimistic, to borrow Windhorst's sliding scale, and not just because of the discounted salaries and salary cap mechanics it would require. Fielding three of the five best players in the league on the same team would make the Lakers a heavy championship favorite, but at what cost to their legacies?

James may have transcended criticism for orchestrating superstar pairings with his fourth title on a third team, but Antetokounmpo is still pursuing greatness earnestly. Joining James and Davis on a team that has already won would earn him the same respect Kevin Durant received for joining the Golden State Warriors.

KNICKS

There would be no greater adoration than that of New York Knicks fans for whichever superstar restores respectability in Madison Square Garden. Who knows if that holds any value to Antetokounmpo, who was a five-year-old in Athens, Greece, when last the Knicks made the Finals. The allure of being a godsend in New York has yet to appeal to a generation of players who have wit-

nessed nothing but instability on the Knicks.

But the Knicks are operating under a new regime. Former agent turned president of basketball operations Leon Rose and power broker turned executive vice president William Wesley are no strangers to recruiting, and their patience in free agency this year kicks the can to 2021, when a host of All-Stars will be available.

Not only can the Knicks offer New York as a basketball stage, but Antetokounmpo would have the chance to sculpt the roster as he sees fit. They are the blank-slate option. New York will have enough cap space for Antetokounmpo to pick the available co-star of his choice and possibly even enough to recruit a third star.

RAPTORS

Toronto Raptors president of basketball operations Masai Ujiri has long had eyes for Antetokounmpo. He reportedly helped the Antetokounmpos secure Greek citizenship as Nigerian immigrants before trying to trade up in the 2013 draft for Antetokounmpo. Antetokounmpo has always been Uji-

ri's post-Kawhi Leonard plan.

The Raptors fully operated this offseason with the intent of creating max cap space in 2021. According to The Athletic's Blake Murphy, they did not offer a guaranteed second year to either Marc Gasol or Serge Ibaka, instead signing Aron Baynes and Chris Boucher to one-year deals with club options for a second season. OG Anunoby's rookie extension has also been put on hold to ensure max flexibility next offseason.

Toronto is built to complement a superstar, just not built as soundly as they were for Leonard in 2018-19. Gone are Gasol and Ibaka. In order to clear cap space for Antetokounmpo, Kyle Lowry will have to enter unrestricted free agency, and Norman Powell must decline his player option. Ujiri has a proven track record, and the trust he has built with Antetokounmpo would have to be the foundation of his free-agency pitch.

HEAT

President of basketball operations Pat Riley is always a threat to lure superstars to his Miami Heat. He paired Sha-

Peyton leads Hall of Fame semifinalists

NEW YORK (AP)—Peyton Manning, Charles Woodson, Jared Allen and Calvin Johnson are first-year eligible players to make the list of 25 semifinalists for the Pro Football Hall of Fame's class of 2021.

Joining them are four players who previously have been eligible, but never made the semifinals: Eric Allen, Willie Anderson, Cornelius Bennett and Rodney Harrison.

A player must be retired for five seasons before being considered for entry to the Canton, Ohio, shrine.

The group of 25 announced Tuesday also includes Ronde Barber, Tony Boselli, LeRoy Butler, Alan Faneca, Torrey Holt, John Lynch, Clay Matthews, Sam Mills, Richard Seymour, Steve Tasker, Fred Taylor, Zach Thomas, Hines Ward, Reggie Wayne, Patrick Willis, Darren Woodson and Bryant Young.

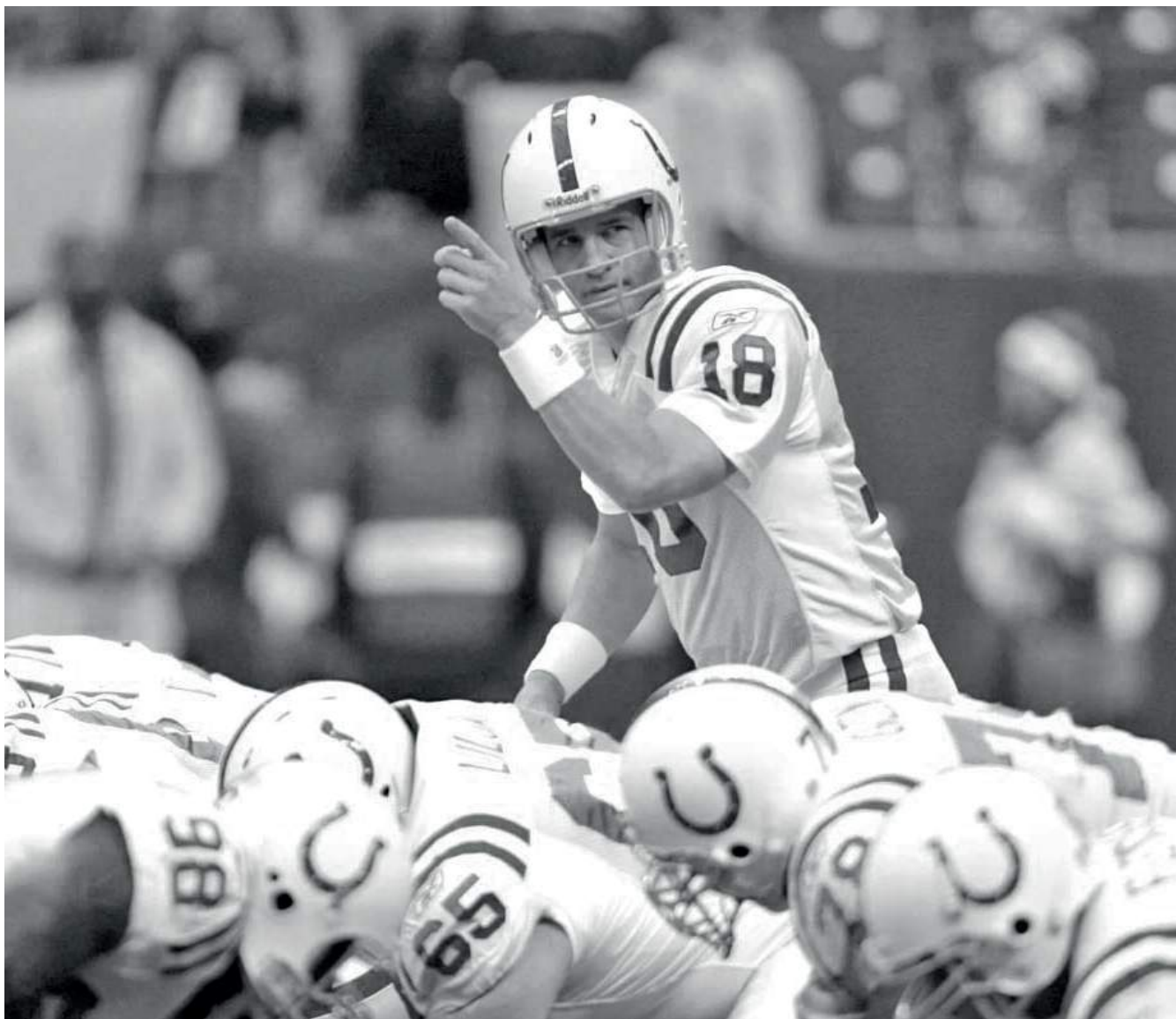
Candidates will be trimmed to 15 modern-day finalists who will be considered for entry by the selection committee during Super Bowl week in February. Inductions are scheduled for next August, when the 2020 class and a special centennial class also will be enshrined after the COVID-19 pandemic forced postponement of those ceremonies last summer.

Also on the voting ballot in the coaching category is Tom Flores; in the contributors category is Bill Nunn; and in the seniors category is Drew Pearson.

Between four and eight new members will be selected.

Of the 25 semifinalists, several have been finalists in the past, including Boselli, Faneca, Holt, Lynch, Mills, Seymour, Thomas, Wayne and Young in 2019.

Manning, of course, is a record five-time league MVP and held several career passing records when he retired after 17 seasons; he missed



In this Oct 15, 2006 file photo, Indianapolis Colts quarterback Peyton Manning (18) calls a play against the Seattle Seahawks during the first half of an NFL game in Seattle. AP

push Lynch into Hall of Fame conversation, but have neglected Taylor.

Taylor's numbers speak for themselves. It's hard to ignore his place on the all-time rushing list. So why isn't Taylor in already? It could have to do with Taylor's lack of awards or recognition when he played. Despite putting up tremendous numbers pretty consistently, Taylor was named to the Pro Bowl just once. He never made an All-Pro team and he didn't win any Super Bowl rings.

Those accolades shouldn't necessarily be held against Taylor. He played in an era where running backs put up absurd seasons. Shaun Alexander, Davis, Priest Holmes and LaDainian Tomlinson all took focus away from Taylor. While Alexander and Holmes had some fantastic seasons that won plenty of fantasy championships, neither had Taylor's longevity. The same can be said of Davis, who saw his production fall off dramatically after four seasons.

While Taylor's stats are excellent, the longevity argument isn't the sexiest. It's far easier to make a case for Davis' dominance and rings. What Taylor needs is someone to take up his case and vehemently argue he deserves to be in the Hall of Fame.

If that's going to happen, it better happen soon. Taylor was named a semifinalist for the Hall of Fame on Tuesday. He still needs some luck to get inducted, but at least people are finally paying attention to his greatness.

2011 with a severe neck problem. He played in three Super Bowls, winning two—one with the Colts and the other with Denver. He was a quarterback on the All-Decade Team of the 2000s.

Woodson, who played cornerback and safety with Oakland and Green Bay in his 18-year career, won a Super Bowl with the Packers, lost one with the Raiders, and made three All-Pro Teams. Woodson was the 1998 Defensive Rookie of the Year, and took top defensive player honors in 2009. He also made the All-Decade Team of the 2000s.

Defensive end Jared Allen

had 136 sacks and twice led the league in his 12-year career for the Chiefs, Vikings, Bears and Panthers. He made four All-Pro Teams.

Johnson, nicknamed "Megatron," was a dynamic receiver for nine seasons in Detroit, though he played for weak teams. He twice led the league in yards receiving and once in receptions with 122 in 2011, one of his two All-Pro years. Johnson made the All-Decade Team of the 2010s even though he retired after the 2015 season.

Meanwhile, when Jackson-

ville Jaguars running back Fred Taylor retired, he sat in the top 20 on the all-time rushing list. Despite the fact that a handful of players lower on that list have made it into the Pro Football Hall of Fame, Taylor hasn't received that honor.

Taylor, 44, isn't necessarily bitter about that snub, but he has a hard time seeing some defensive players from his era get recognition over him. Or, as Taylor put it, "These are the same dudes that I mugged every Sunday."

As Taylor stated, when he retired, he sat 15th on the all-time rushing list. He's since

been passed by both Frank Gore and Adrian Peterson. Every single player ahead of Taylor on the all-time list—excluding Gore and Peterson—are in the Pro Football Hall of Fame. Taylor notes that plenty of players lower on that list are in the Hall of Fame, including players like Earl Campbell, Larry Csonka and Terrell Davis.

Taylor's quote focuses more on the defensive players he went up against every week. He mentions Ray Lewis, Derrick Brooks, Ed Reed and Champ Bailey by name. Taylor also mentions John Lynch, saying people have tried to



TOKYO (AP)—Tokyo Governor Yuriko Koike remains firm about being able to safely hold the Olympics next year despite growing concerns about Japan's recent resurgence of COVID-19 infections.

Japan has experienced an uptick of the infections this month with a nationwide daily total exceeding 2,000 as the government tries to balance preventive measures and business activity without further hurting the pandemic-hit economy.

"As the host city, I'm determined to achieve the games whatever it takes," Koike told a news conference in Tokyo on Tuesday.

Her comment comes a week after International Olympic Committee President Thomas

Tokyo governor: Japan can host Olympics despite virus spike

Bach's visit to Tokyo, where he held a series of talks with Japanese Olympic officials, including Koike, to showcase their determination to pull off the games.

Koike said widespread use of masks among the Japanese is one of most effective safety measures that have spared Japan from the high rate of infections that have taken place in the United States and Europe.

Many Japanese used them as "moral duty" in trying to cooperate in disease prevention efforts, she said.

The recent steady climb in cases, however, could call into question plans to hold the Olympics. Bach said "participants" and athletes would be

encouraged to get vaccinated in order to protect the Japanese public, but it is unclear how that would be addressed if cases surge in the host country.

Koike has met with Prime Minister Yoshihide Suga to discuss how to mitigate the recent resurgence of infections. Tokyo's daily cases have also spiked in recent weeks.

Suga on Sunday announced a decision to partially suspend the government's GoTo campaign that encourages travel and eating out with discounts to support the pandemic-hit businesses, after a wave of criticisms that his government was

too slow to take steps despite experts' repeated calls for government action.

Japan, during its seven-week state of emergency in April and May, had non-binding stay-home and business closure requests but still did better than many other countries.

Japan had about 134,000 cases with nearly 2,000 deaths as of Monday, according to the health ministry. Tokyo, after topping 500 cases last week, reported 186 new cases on Tuesday for a total of nearly 38,200 cases.

The Olympics will involve 11,000 athletes from 206 nations and territories competing

over more than two weeks. The Summer Games also usually draw tens of thousands of officials, judges, coaches, media, broadcasters, sponsors, and VIPs.

The subsequent Paralympics will involved 4,400 athletes.

Tokyo organizing committee CEO Toshiro Muto earlier confirmed that a limited number of non-Japanese fans may be allowed to attend.

But there will be some stringent guidelines, rule books to follow, and health apps to track fans and monitor the spread of the infection.

"By next spring we will be coming up with measures for all spectators including the non-Japan residents," Muto



said, speaking in Japanese in an on-line briefing. "For the non-Japanese, we need to be sure we secure a spectating opportunity for them as well."

Initially, Muto said it would be difficult to subject entering fans to a quarantine, and then suggested later it might happen.

The Olympics are proving very costly. Organizers say they are spending about \$12.6 billion to prepare the Games. But a government audit says it is twice that much. All but \$5.6 billion is public money. In addition, the cost of the delay in Japan is estimated at an additional \$2 billion to \$3 billion.

A University of Oxford study says these are the most costly Summer Olympics on record.

Australian Open ‘most likely’ to be delayed

MELBOURNE, Australia (AP)—The sports minister for Victoria state says the 2021 Australian Open in Melbourne will “most likely” be delayed by a week or two from its scheduled start of Jan. 18.

Martin Pakula also said negotiations between various levels of governments and tennis officials were close to a conclusion

and that the first Grand Slam tennis tournament of the year was expected to go ahead.

“There’s a number of potential dates on the table. I’ve seen reports that suggest that it’s likely to be delayed by a week or two. I think that’s still most likely,” Pakula said Wednesday. “But it’s not the only option. As you know, the

NMSA

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windows at the NMSA offices.

More improvement work will be done at the Oleai Sports Complex in the next two years, as the CNMI prepares for the hosting of the Pacific Mini Games, which will run from June 17 to 25 in 2022.

Six sports have been approved

for the Mini Games program, including athletics and baseball that will have their respective competitions at the track oval and “Tan Ko” Ballfield. Badminton, beach volleyball, golf, and triathlon are the four other sports initially approved for the regional meet, but NMSA has appealed to the Pacific Games Council to consider adding tennis and weightlifting to the list.



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

The weights room adjacent to the Gilbert C. Ada Gymnasium has been repainted.

RUNNERS

From Page 28

Road).

Dela Cruz said the relighting of the pathway is good news not only for runners, but as well as bikers and walkers.

“The Beach Road pathway is a path of travel for people especially for those who have no transportation. It’s safer to walk or bike Beach Road versus taking Middle Road. Having the lights make people feel safe and comfortable traveling especially when it’s dark and there’s no moon illumination nights. I’m very sure that there are many people due to their schedule can only work out before sunrise or after sunset and their preferred area to do their workout is on the pathway,” said Dela Cruz, who is logging mileage at the pathway as he is now competing in a virtual race.

When the pathway has yet to be relit Dela Cruz said blind corners in the tree line near the tank monument are a challenge for competitive runners like him.

Jessica Ortiz, another pathway regular, said now that the lights are back on, she can start running along Beach Road with her kids even at night and do some chores first in the afternoon.

Rommel Buenaflor, who usually does his run early morning, said having the pathway as a venue for exercise like walking and running is good for one’s physical and mental being, especially at this time of the COVID-19 pandemic. He added that those who are pressed for time in the morning now have the opportunity to go out and do their activities along Beach Road at night with the lights relit.

“Having the lights on at night will encourage people to still go out and walk/run for their physical and mental health,” Buenaflor said.

Dela Cruz shared Buenaflor’s sentiments saying that the it’s much harder for people to go out and do their activities in daylight hours.

The firefighter also has an appeal to the community.

“Please help take care of these lights. Please do not damage or break apart the lights to steal parts,” Dela Cruz said.

Meanwhile, business owners along the Bank of Guam-DFS intersection also welcomed the relighting in their area.

“It makes us, as well as our customers feel safer,” said Windy Fernandez, who operates a restaurant in Garapan.

Cecille Camama, a general merchandize store owner in



AP
In this Jan. 22, 2020 file photo, Japan’s Naomi Osaka returns a shot to China’s Zheng Saisai at the Australian Open tennis championship in Melbourne, Australia.

French Open was delayed by many months and Wimbledon didn’t occur at all.

“I still think it’s much more likely that it will be a shorter rather than longer delay. I don’t want to unduly repeat myself but these are very complex negotiations.”

Australian Open tournament director and Tennis Australia chief executive Craig Tiley last weekend said the final dates should be confirmed within two weeks. The Australian Open is usually held in the last two weeks of January, which coincides with summer

school holidays in Australia.

Victoria was hard-hit by a second wave of COVID-19, forcing the city of Melbourne into a lengthy lockdown, a night curfew and travel and other restrictions in the state. But it no longer has any active cases and its last deaths from the virus in the state were on Oct. 28.

Pakula, the sports minister, wouldn’t comment on the players and their entourages’ quarantine arrangements amid speculation the process may be shortened to only 10 days,

other than to reaffirm that they would definitely be required to quarantine. All arrivals in Australia currently must undergo a 14-day hotel quarantine.

“The exact nature of that quarantine, whether or not it’s their own bubble, or something more common, is still part of those conversations,” Pakula said.

“The quarantine requirements will be those that are ultimately agreed with the public health (authorities) and then it will be a matter for the ATP and the WTA about whether or not

they are acceptable.”

Officials conducted some 10,000 coronavirus tests before and during the successfully-staged U.S. Open in New York in September, with Frenchman Benoit Paire the only player to return a positive to COVID-19.

“An extremely rigorous testing regime will apply to the players both before they leave the port that they come in from and when they arrive,” Pakula said. “And then I imagine consistently through the time they’re in their (bio-secure) bubble.”

Garapan, said the relighting somehow provided them a sense of hope at this time of the pandemic.

“When you are used to Garapan being the life of Saipan, it’s kind of odd not to see many people going here be-

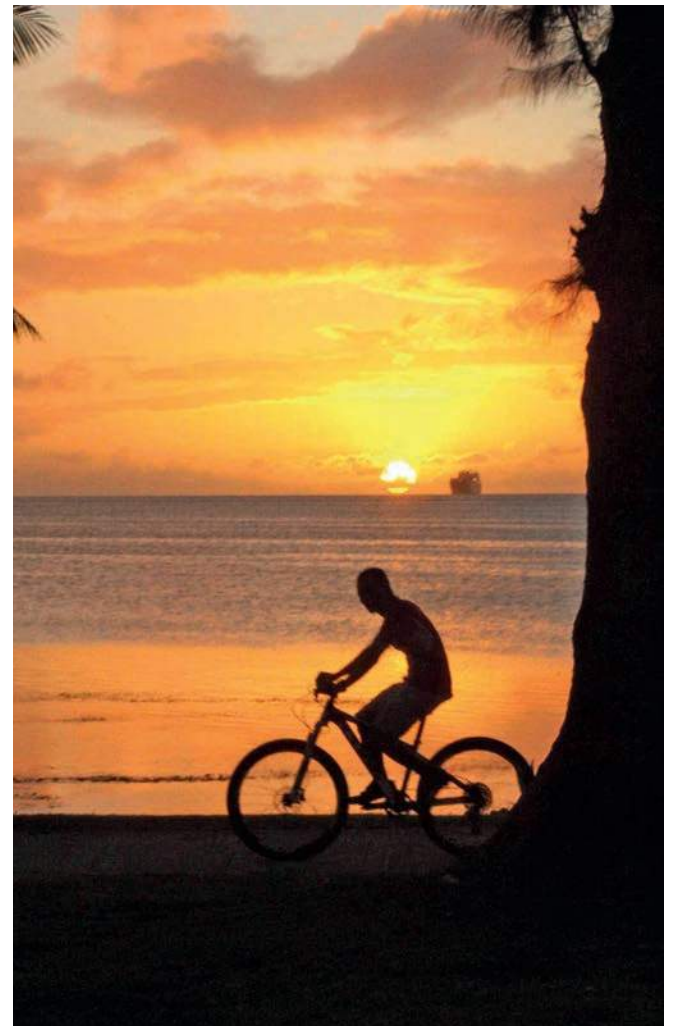
cause of the pandemic and limited hours of business operation. We felt the partial desolation, but with this relighting

project, at least it has lifted our spirit as we look forward for our recovery from this crisis,” Camama said.



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

One of the lights along the Gov. Froilan C. Tenorio Beach Road Pathway has been turned back on this month.



ROMMEL BUENAFLOR

A biker passes through the Gov. Froilan C. Tenorio Beach Road Pathway on his way home.



Teams plan,
pray for
Giannis free
agency

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Peyton
leads Hall
of Fame
semifinalists

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SAIPAN TRIBUNE



ROMMEL BUENAFLO

A mother and her daughter walk along the
Gov. Froilan C. Tenorio Beach Road Pathway.

Runners welcome pathway relighting

By ROSELYN B. MONROYO
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REPORTER

If members of the running community on Saipan will have a list of what they are grateful for this Thanksgiving, having the lights back at the Gov. Froilan C. Tenorio Beach Road Pathway will be on it.

"I'm glad and very thankful that the Governor's Office and their team were able to bring the lights at the pathway back on," said Edward Dela Cruz Jr, who includes the pathway in his regular running routes.

Since late last month, lights have been re-installed along the pathway with Gov. Ralph DLG Torres and his

office coordinating the project through the help of the Office of the Grants Management, Department of Public Works, and the Commonwealth Utilities Corp. The lights reinstalled and relit are from the Gilbert C. Ada Gym up to where the Gov. Froilan C. Tenorio Beach Road Pathway signage is located (across the JP Center Building), while the fixtures will be stretched to the Garapan Fishing Base. Overall, 250 lights will be relit and the project also includes the Bank of Guam-DFS intersection on Beach Road to Chalan Pale Arnold (Middle

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NMSA names priority projects

By ROSELYN B. MONROYO
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REPORTER

The Northern Marianas Sports Association has identified four priority projects at the Oleai Sports Complex as part of its continued efforts to improve the main sports facility in the Commonwealth.

NMSA executive director Carline Sablan, during the group's meeting last week at the Hibiscus Hall of the Fiesta Resort & Spa Saipan, said that there's a long list of repair and renovation work needed at the complex, but they will initially be focusing on four areas as they required immediate attention.



First on the schedule is the roofing at the Gilbert C. Ada Gymnasium as it has been leaking since Saipan was struck by Super Typhoon Soudelor in 2015 and its condition turned from bad to worse when another strong storm (Super Typhoon Yutu) hammered the islands three years later. The leaking roof even



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

The weights room at the Oleai Sports Complex has been cleared and repainted.



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Northern Marianas Sports Association has identified fixing the lights at the Oleai Sports Complex's track oval as a priority project.

forced NMSA to remove the floor tiles at the Ada Gym, as they have been peeled off and many have formed bubbles, making it unsafe for use.

NMSA has also identified the lighting fixtures at the track and field oval and the Francisco "Tan Ko" Palacios Ballfield as a priority along with turning the Ada Gym into an airconditioned facility

and purchasing a generator for the complex's adjacent offices and other facilities.

Sablan said that the money that will be used for these priority projects will come from the \$3.1-million typhoon recovery funds from the Federal Emergency Management Agency. She added that NMSA is coordinating with Patrick Guerrero of CNMI

Public Assistance Office for assessment on these improvement work to determine the costs of each undertaking and the process involved to move forward with the projects.

Meanwhile, though the Olea Sports Complex is closed for competition and other activities (only the track oval is open for runners/walkers and other small group activities), NMSA

through the help of the Department of Community and Cultural Affairs have been sprucing up the facilities and offices.

The weights room has been cleared, cleaned, and repainted, while lights outside the Gilbert C. Ada Gym and its adjacent rooms have been fixed along with the broken

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